

The Resident's Unit

A resident's unit is the room or area where the resident lives. It contains the resident's furniture and personal possessions. The unit is the resident's **home** and must be treated with respect. Always knock and wait to receive permission before entering.

Standard unit equipment includes the following:

- ∇Bed
- ∇Bedside stand
- ∇Overbed table
- ∇Chair
- ∇Emesis basin
- ∇Bedpan
- ∇Urinal
- ∇Bath basin
- ∇Call light
- ∇Privacy curtain

Bedside Stand

Residents can store small personal items in bedside stands. The water pitcher and cup are often placed on top of the bedside stand.

Overbed Table

The overbed table may be used for meals or personal care. It is considered a clean area. Bedpans and urinals and soiled linen should not be placed on it.

Call Light

The intercom system is the most common call system used. When the resident presses the button, a light will be seen and/or a bell will be heard at the nurses' station. The call light allows the resident to communicate with staff whenever necessary. It is important to always place the call light within the resident's reach and to answer all call lights immediately.

Caring for Equipment

You will be taught the correct way to use many pieces of equipment. It is important to know how to use and care for all equipment properly. This prevents infection and injury. If you do not know how to use a particular piece of equipment, ask for assistance. Do not try to use equipment that you do not know how to use.

Some equipment you will use will be disposable. This means it is discarded after use. Disposable razors and latex gloves are examples of this. Disposable equipment is used to prevent the spread of microorganisms. Discard disposable equipment in proper containers.

Some equipment will need to be cleaned after each use. Bedpans and wash basins are examples of this. Rinse them with water before cleaning them. Wear gloves while rinsing and cleaning this equipment so that you do not come into contact with infectious wastes.

After cleaning equipment and drying it, you may need to disinfect it. **Disinfection** means the use of chemicals to destroy pathogens. It does not kill all microorganisms. **Sterilization** means all microorganisms are destroyed, not just pathogens. Some equipment will need to be sterilized. An autoclave is usually used to sterilize equipment. This machine creates steam or a type of gas that kills microorganisms.

You will need to keep a resident's unit neat and clean. After providing care for the resident, you will tidy the area. Clean and put equipment away. Providing a clean, safe, and orderly environment is an essential part of your job.

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