

# Sullivan County Department of Public Health

<b><u>Title:</u></b> Bag Technique	Original Approval: 7 / 9 0
<b><u>Number:</u></b> CP 02	Reviewed/ revised: 9/99, 9/05, 4/13, 2/24
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## **Statement/ Purpose:**

To provide guidelines to prevent contamination of the healthcare bag. To protect patients, family members and healthcare workers from the spread of infection.

## **Authority:**

CHAP IPC.4.I, IPC.6.I

## **Application:**

All staff providing direct patient care.

## **Terminology:**

n/a

## **Responsible Party:**

Training and Quality Improvement Coordinator

## **Cross-Reference:**

Hand Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfection of Equipment, Medical Waste, Sharps Transport and Disposal

## **Procedure:**

1. Select a healthcare bag that has at least three separate compartments.
2. Designate two “clean” compartments.
3. Pack the bag with necessary supplies before leaving for visits. Pack handwashing supplies near the top or in a side pocket where they are easily accessible.
4. Store the healthcare bag in a clean storage container or on a clean surface/ barrier in your car.
5. Do not take the healthcare bag into infest homes or homes of patients with antibiotic resistant infections such as MRSA or VRE. Utilize plastic bag with only necessary items and cleaning supplies.
6. In the home, identify a clean and safe area for the healthcare bag. **Never** set the healthcare bag on the floor. **Always** choose a place to set the bag that gives you enough work space, is close to the patient, has a source of water, and is away from children and pets.
7. Plan where you will discard disposable items and sharps ahead of time.
8. Spread and impervious barrier on the surface before setting the bag down.
9. Remove hand washing supplies first. Was and dry hands thoroughly, following proper hand washing technique.
10. Remove any items needed for patient care, including any necessary personal protective equipment. Place equipment/ supplies on a clean field.
11. Close the bag before performing patient care
12. Wash your hands again inf you need to re-enter the bag for any additional supplies during patient care.

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13. Only dispose of sharps in an approved sharps disposal container. The sharps container must be kept in a separate “dirty” compartment or a designated sharps container pouch. **Never** put used sharps directly in the bag.
14. Discard disposables in a sealed trash bag.
15. Bag any soiled reusable items that cannot be cleaned in the patient’s home and transport them according to the agency policy. Do not put these soiled items back into the healthcare bag.
16. Wash your hands, then clean reusable items, then repack and close the healthcare bag.
17. Clean and disinfect the healthcare bag weekly by hand washing in mild soap and warm water and air drying.