

CLEANING & SAFETY INFORMATION

HOTDOG® PATIENT WARMING



INTRODUCTION

HotDog Patient Warming is proven to safely and effectively treat the adverse effects of unintended hypothermia during surgery. The air-free warming system consists of a controller that delivers low-voltage electricity to reusable, conductive-fabric warming blankets and/or a mattress.

NON-CRITICAL ITEM

The *CDC Disinfection Guidelines* contains information about cleaning devices like HotDog:

- Definition of “noncritical items:” those that come in contact with intact skin but not mucous membranes, ex: bedpans, blood pressure cuffs, crutches and computers.¹
- **“Virtually no risk has been documented for transmission of infectious agents to patients through noncritical items...”^{1,3}**
- Contaminated patient care equipment is the least-frequently cited source of infectious agents causing HAI.²

DESIGNED FOR EASY CLEANING

HotDog blankets and mattresses are designed for easy cleaning:

- Non-porous, heat-sealed outer shell (no crevices).
- Shell impregnated with a zinc-ion antimicrobial that inhibits the growth of pathogenic organisms. →
- Entire cleaning process takes less than 30 seconds per item.

Antimicrobial: **Ultra-Fresh DW-30**

- Has passed the most stringent testing procedures for safety and efficacy to meet international regulatory guidelines (US EPA Registered).
- Has been tested effective at inhibiting the growth of a wide range of fungi, algae, and gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria including *Staphylococcus aureus* and *MRSA*.

Disclaimer: The EPA does not allow health claims to be made for treated articles--this is not a health claim.

CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS

The blankets and mattresses should be cleaned between patient use. Consult Cleaning Guidelines (D1174) and Cleaning Tutorial Video (MV100) for more detailed information about cleaning protocol (www.hotdog-usa.com).

- Noncritical medical equipment surfaces should be disinfected with an EPA-registered low- or intermediate-level disinfectant...which will provide antimicrobial activity achieved with minimal additional cost or work.¹
- Noncritical reusable items may be decontaminated where they are used—not central processing.¹

ALTERNATIVES TO HOTDOG PATIENT WARMING

NOT WARMING

- Hypothermia causes many complications, including increased wound infections,⁴ increased blood loss,⁵ increased ICU times and hospital stays,⁴ and higher mortality rates.⁶
- SCIP-Inf-10 and PQRS require active warming for all anesthetized patients undergoing procedures 60 minutes or longer,⁷ which effects quality scores and reimbursement.⁸

FORCED-AIR WARMING (FAW)

- **Contaminated blower units:** one published study showed that 92% of FAW blowers are contaminated with bacteria.⁹ Another study showed 100% of blowers contaminated and emitting internally generated particles.¹⁰ The high-velocity, heated air emitting from FAW machines also has the ability to aerosolize germs that usually settle near the floor.

AORN Journal: “Clinicians should take steps to prevent health care–associated infections from the use of forced-air warmers....” Such steps include “routinely and meticulously” cleaning the devices.¹¹

- **Airborne contamination:** Five published studies have shown that FAW waste heat generates convection currents that contaminate the sterile surgical field with floor-level air.¹²⁻¹⁶

APIC Guide to the Elimination of Orthopedic Surgical Site Infections: “If airflow is interrupted, rapid air turbulence can stir settled particles, enabling them to become airborne thus increasing the risk of wound contamination.”¹⁷

- **Linked to higher peri-prosthetic joint infection (PJI) rates:** discontinuing the use of FAW resulted in a 74% reduction in PJI rates.¹²

International Orthopedic Consensus: “We recognize the theoretical risk posed by forced-air warming blankets.”¹⁸

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