INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) GUIDANCE
USE OF PORTABLE FANS IN HEALTHCARE
INFORMATION SHEET

Note: This Information Sheet was developed by the IPC Continuing Care Working Group and adapted from Covenant Health Infection Prevention and Control Best Practice Guideline: The Use of Portable Oscillating Blade Fans for use in Healthcare Facilities.

This document covers infection prevention and control measures only and does not cover operational issues such as cost, noise, electrical requirements, responsibility for purchase, or assignment of cleaning responsibility.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Information Sheet please contact Infection Prevention & Control at infectionpreventioncontrol@albertahealthservices.ca.

USE OF PORTABLE FANS IN HEALTHCARE

1. Portable fans may be used, if approved by the facility or unit, to assist in patient and staff comfort when air temperatures increase. Refer to example of portable fans for more information.

2. Fans can disperse airborne contaminants and change airflow patterns and may increase the risk of infection to the patient in some circumstances. Do not use portable fans:
   2.1 In high-risk areas such as operating rooms, critical care units and transplant units;
   2.2 If a patient is on airborne precautions;
   2.3 In rooms with directed airflow (e.g. negative or positive pressure);
   2.4 Medical device reprocessing departments;
   2.5 Any other area that performs reprocessing; or
   2.6 Where sterile supplies are stored.

3. Consult infection prevention and control (and/or public health) before use of portable fans:
   3.1 If a patient is on additional precautions other than airborne precautions (e.g. contact, droplet); or
   3.2 In food preparation and food service areas.

4. If portable fans are used:
   4.1 Turn the fan off before any sterile or aseptic procedure is performed (e.g. intravenous starts, wound care, lumbar puncture, thoracentesis, etc.).
   4.2 Perform hand hygiene when cleaning, handling or maintaining fans.
   4.3 Follow the manufacturer's instructions to clean, disinfect and maintain the fan on a scheduled basis (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly, etc.).

5. Additional Considerations:
   5.1 Consult Facilities, Maintenance and Engineering for questions about heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), infrastructure or electrical requirements.

Example of a portable fan:

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<tr>
<th>Fan</th>
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<td>(May be permitted on a case-by-case basis)</td>
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REFERENCES:

