

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Newcastle Neonatal Service

Changing and Cleaning Incubators

This guideline aims to support the routine changing and cleaning of incubators and should be read in conjunction with the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals [Trust Disinfection policy](#) and the [Newcastle Neonatal Services Guideline - MRSA](#) .

Although these instructions refer to incubator care they should also be utilised when infants are nursed in a Babytherm.

Changing Incubator:

- Incubators should be routinely changed every four weeks.
- If the infant is to unstable to support this routine change document reason in the infants notes and support change once the infant's condition allows.
- If milk or other substances leak or are spilt in the incubator the incubator should be change immediately unless the infant is unstable when the spillage should be cleaned and incubator changed once the infant is stable to do so.
- **Place orange “incubator changed” sticker** on the baby's flow chart in the baby notes on the date of each change

Cleaning incubator

- Unplug incubator - move to designated cleaning area
- allowing at least 1 hour for the incubator to cool down prior to disassembling
- Empty the incubator humidity tank before remove the reservoir
- Lift or tilt the incubator lid
- Remove all of the seals from the doors and ports
- Remove the mattress, mattress holder and tilt mechanism bar of incubator
- Lift incubator base and wash and dry reservoir area thoroughly
- Wash all parts with detergent and hand hot water then dry thoroughly.
- Reassemble the incubator leaving the seals off
- Allow incubator and seals to air dry for further 24 hours before reassembling ready for use.

Infants with MRSA or other infections requiring isolation

- Following cleaning instructions above: wash all parts with detergent and hand hot water then dry thoroughly.
- Allow to dry and clean with a solution of “Acticlor” 1000 PARTS PER MILLION
- When the incubator is dry it must be washed again to eradicate chlorine fumes)
- Reassemble the incubator leaving the seals off
- Allow incubator and seals to air dry for **a minimum of 24 hours** before reassembling ready for use