

The environment of care plays a vital role in preventing and controlling infections. Environmental rounding is an opportunity to assess the facility for safe and sanitary conditions.

Infection Prevention Checklist



1. Develop a plan for conducting environmental rounds at a scheduled frequency. The Infection Preventionist has an important role in this rounding, but include other leaders as well, such as a unit manager, Environmental Services, or Facilities.
2. Use a standardized tool for the rounds. Example from the Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE): <https://spice.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/HD-Environmental-Rounds-Tool.doc>. Some key items to look for include but are not limited to:
 - a. All areas
 - i. Ceiling tiles stain free with no gaps
 - ii. No water intrusions or leaks
 - iii. Furniture in good repair (no tears/cracks/rips)
 - iv. Hallways clear
 - b. Storage areas
 - i. Nothing but cleaning items under sinks
 - ii. No patient/resident care items stored within 3 ft of sink (“splash zone”)
 - iii. Expired items removed and stock rotated
 - iv. Supplies covered/individually wrapped
 - v. Items stored 8” from floor and 18” from ceiling if sprinkler heads
 - vi. No corrugated cardboard boxes/shipping containers
 - vii. Dedicated medication storage
 - viii. Clean linens kept covered
 - c. Clinical areas
 - i. Clean and dedicated medication and pharmacy areas
 - ii. Safe injection practices used to prepare medications
 - iii. No food or drink in clinical areas; in designated areas only
 - iv. Sharps containers - not overfilled and nothing is placed on top
3. Share results of environmental rounds with unit/department leadership so that any issues can be addressed.

Additional Resources



1. NC SPICE video – Environmental Rounds: What to Look For:
<https://vimeo.com/672505258/517ef38062>
2. NC SPICE video - Environmental Assessment: Long Term Care:
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6118634/video/348881733>