

Care of the Rubber Tubes (catheters, rectal tubes, flatus tubes, Nyle's tubes and infusion sets).

Catheters vary in size and quality according to the special needs. Size of the catheters are marked on it either in French or English scales. When it is exposed to force or suction, a heavy walled tube is desirable. When a great flexibility is wanted, a tube with thin wall is indicated. The points to remember in cleaning tubes are:

1. After use, wash them under running water, holding the eye end upwards and allowing the water to run through.
2. A small quantity of organic matter may be lodged at the eye end. Remove them using a swab stick.
3. Clean them with soap and warm water to remove the dirt and grease.
4. Wash them again under running water.

5 Boil the tubes for 5 min by putting them in the boiling water. Dry them by hanging.

6 When dried, powder and store them in airtight containers lengthwise.

7 Reboil or autoclave them before use.

Care Of Enamel Ware

The articles commonly used as bedpans, urinals, kidney trays, sputum cups, feeding cups and trays. The polishing on the enamel ware is eroded by heat, mercuric salt, acids, alkalis and by chemicals.

They are subject to chipping if dropped on the floor or handled carelessly. Scraping with sharp instruments also result in clipping.

Care Of Bedpans

1 Before emptying the bedpan, inspect the contents. If there are cotton sponges or sanitary pads thrown into bedpans, they're removed by using a forceps kept for that purpose.

- 2 Empty the bedpan into a lavatory pan, care being taken to avoid soiling the sides of the basin.
- 3 Rinse the bedpan with cold water under force.
- 4 Wash with soap and warm water using a brush. Vim may also be used to remove the stains. Rinse it well.
- 5 To disinfect the bedpans, soak them in Lysol 1:40 for 1 hour or they are sterilized in bedpan sterilizers.
- 6 Bedpans may be placed in direct sunlight for few hours to deodorize and to disinfect.
- 7 Keep them dry for the next use on the bedpan rack.

Care Of Urinals

The urinals should not be left standing for a long time with urine because a deposit will form on the inside, which is almost impossible to remove. Cleaning and disinfection are done in the same way as for the bedpans.

Care Of The Kidney Trays

Kidney Trays are treated in the same way as for the bedpans.

Care Of Sputum Cups

Non-infectious sputum may be emptied into the lavatory pan, care being taken not to soil the sides of the pan. Infectious sputum (e.g. the sputum of a tuberculous client) should be rendered harmless by boiling or disinfection by chemicals or it may be disposed by burning.

Cleaning and disinfection of the sputum cup is done as for the bedpans. Before the sputum cups are given to the client, add a small quantity of antiseptic lotion, main purpose of which is to prevent the sputum sticking to the sides.

Care Of Syringes and Needles

Syringes make an expensive and common item of the glassware used in the hospital. Rinsing