



# Practice Briefs

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## Is it sufficient to clean shared nail clippers with alcohol?

**NO.**

Guidelines suggest that instruments used in nail care, nail cutting instruments and nail burrs, are classified as semi-critical because of their potential contact with non-intact skin. Semi-critical items *minimally* require manual cleaning followed by high level disinfection<sup>1,2</sup>. Alternatives would include use of disposable, single-use instruments or designating clippers to a single resident and imposing safeguards, such as instrument labels with patient name, and ongoing staff education. Hepatitis B outbreaks related to podiatry care practices have occurred in long term care settings.

### References:

1. William A. Rutala, Ph.D., M.P.H., David J. Weber, M.D., M.P.H., and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC): Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008 -- basis for "Disinfection and Sterilization Recommendations for Podiatric Physicians". Retrieved from <http://www.rainiermeded.com/v/vspfiles/assets/images/apma%20disinfectin%20guideline.pdf> Accessed on 4/4/18
2. Wise ME, Bancroft E, Clement EJ, Infection Prevention and Control in the Podiatric Medical Setting. *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association*: (2015) 105(3):264-272.

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