

# OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTION

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**Subject: CHEMICAL DISINFECTION OF BEDPANS, URINALS AND COMMODE BOWLS**

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The chemical specified for use in chemical pan sanitisers is chlorinated trisodium phosphate in concentration of 480 grams per tank full of water (i.e. 80 Litres). While some chemical suppliers now make their product available in sachet form, those hospitals using bulk supplies should use two scoops full of the chemical, using the in-built scoop positioned at the bottom front of the tank.

Decontamination of the utensils can be achieved within 5 minutes provided the items are free from soil and totally submerged.

If using plastic urinals and bed pans it is important that the steel grill is lowered to keep the items submerged.

Bulk chemical should be stored away from heat and moisture, and personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used when mixing the chemical.

Although the full strength chemical is normally harmless to the skin, it is not advisable for the full strength or the diluted solution to be handled. The plastic container provided should be used for the full strength chemical and the lifter used for removing the bed pans from the decontaminator, otherwise surface drying on the skin will take place. It is recommended that the lifter which is provided be utilised to eliminate handling.

The tank must be emptied and replenished every 24 hours, or 12 hourly if in constant use.

**Do not process wash basins, vomit bowls or kidney dishes in the tank.** These items must be either sanitised in hot water or steam sterilised after cleaning.

A wet pan or bottle must not be used for a urine sample, otherwise a false reading may be obtained due to the presence of chlorine. Once the pan or bottle is dry, all chlorine has been given off.

If difficulties are noted in dissolving the chemicals due to local water conditions, contact your local chemical supplier.

Stephen Collins  
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