How To Randomly Order Lists of Rooms and High-Touch Surfaces

ICU & Non-ICU

Read the [**Evaluating Environmental Cleaning**](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/hai/tools/mrsa/027-evaluating-cleaning-data-collection.docx) document before you proceed with your randomization process.

A systematic way to pick rooms for fluorescent gel (FG) placement is important, to ensure every room has an equal chance of selection and to minimize the risk of environmental cleaning associates knowing where FG is placed in a room. This system will ensure that the data are more objective, valid, and representative of overall thoroughness of cleaning. Below are instructions on how to randomly order lists of rooms and high-touch surfaces.

## 1. Randomly order list of rooms

Re-randomize the list of rooms each day you choose to evaluate for cleaning status by following the instructions below. Generate a list of randomly ordered rooms for a unit by using a free online randomizer.

1. Enter the appropriate information into each field. Let’s use an example of a 20-bed hospital unit (rooms 1–20). Follow the directions for the randomizer you choose.

You should get a randomized list such as this:

* 1. 18
  2. 4
  3. 10
  4. 8
  5. 20
  6. 9
  7. 3
  8. 11
  9. 16
  10. 19
  11. 1
  12. 15
  13. 7
  14. 12
  15. 14
  16. 17
  17. 13
  18. 2
  19. 5
  20. 6

1. Print the list.

## 2. Randomly order a list of high-touch surfaces

This time, generate a randomly ordered list of near-patient high-touch surfaces (HTS) and of other HTS. The following is a comprehensive list of all HTS, some of which may not be found in some units or facilities. If so, they can be removed from your list or skipped over.

As above, re-randomize the list of HTS each day you choose to evaluate cleaning using the room randomization technique you used above.

1. Copy and paste the list of near-patient HTS below into the search randomizer’s field. Follow the directions for the randomizer you choose.

Bed rail/controls

Over-bed tray table

Call box/button

Telephone

Bedside table

Intravenous fluid pump control

Intravenous fluid pole (grab area)

Vital signs monitor

Ventilator control panel

Computer mouse

Computer keyboard

Supply cart

1. Print the list.
2. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the list of other HTS:

Room sink

Room faucet

Room light switch

Room inner doorknob

Chair

Closet door handle

Bathroom light switch

Bathroom handrails by toilet

Bathroom sink

Bathroom faucet (if touch)

Bathroom soap dispenser

Towel bar

Toilet seat

Toilet flush handle

1. Print the list.
2. Bring the printed lists with you when conducting environmental FG data collection.

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