

**Hamons, Coryee**

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**From:** SIG\_Response@jcaho.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2007 2:33 PM  
**To:** Hamons, Coryee  
**Subject:** Re: Infection Control

**We have a Reach out and Read Coordinator who would like to place gently used books in the waiting areas of the facility and clinic offices. We have a manager opponent to the idea stating it is against the infection control JCAHO standards. I cannot find support for this opposition but have been told to get the Joint COMmission's recommendation on this before being allowed to proceed.**

The Joint Commission does not have standards addressing this specific issue. Nor is it addressed in the CDC Guideline for Environmental Infection Control for Healthcare Facilities. I would recommend that you conduct a risk assessment as required under the Infection Control standard IC.2.10 which states that "the Infection Control Program identifies risks for the acquisition and transmission of infectious agents on an ongoing basis." Your infection control practitioner should be able to assist you with this. Unless you are dealing with a population at high risk (immunocompromised) or at a high degree of infectiousness via contact (C. diff, MRSA, VRE), these types of fomites would be of low concern in light of such issues as hand hygiene, appropriate PPE, etc. I hope this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions feel free to submit a question via e-mail at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org) or contact the Standards Interpretation Group at 630-792-5900, option 6. Robin Little; MA Associate Director Standards Interpretation

Robin Little  
Joint Commission  
Standards Interpretation Group  
Phone: 630-792-5900

**Alexandra Smith**

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**From:** SIG\_Response@jcaho.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 08, 2007 11:51 AM  
**To:** Alexandra Smith  
**Subject:** Re: Other

**Attention: Ken Peterson I talked to Ken Peterson in the beginning of January concerning gently used books in the waiting rooms of clinics of my organization Valley Wide Health Systems. My question was whether JCAHO has any regulations concerning gently used books in waiting rooms. Mr. Peterson's response was that JCAHO had no specific reference concerning this issue. I was hoping that I could get this in writing. If so could you please send a statement saying that JCAHO has no regulation about gently used books in waiting rooms.**

This will confirm my comments that the JC does not make specific reference to this issue.

Kenneth Peterson  
Joint Commission  
Standards Interpretation Group  
Phone: 630-792-5900



One Renaissance Boulevard  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
Phone: 630-792-5000

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: ALEXANDRA SMITH  
DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX NUMBER: (719) 589-5722  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (719) 589-5161 XT 1084  
NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 2

FROM: KEN PETERSON  
DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (630) 792-5900

MESSAGE: SEE ATTACHED PURSUANT TO  
YOUR REQUEST.

Note: This facsimile contains confidential information which is intended only for the use of the addressee(s) names above. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering this to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this facsimile, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the telecopied information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please notify us immediately by telephone. Thank You.

Attention Ken Peterson: I talked to you concerning gently used books in the waiting room and emailed me back. Thank for the email. However Valley Wide Health Systems and Reach Out and Read would like a more substantial statement concerning the issue. Would it be possible to fax (719-589-5722) or email me a statement from you saying that there is no JCAHO standard for the used books issue. Thank you, Alexandra Smith

The Joint Commission standards do not make specific reference to prohibiting used books in waiting rooms of health care organizations. It is up to the individual organizations to establish their policies regarding the matter...Ken Peterson