



SECTION: PATIENT RELATED INFECTION CONTROL

NUMBER: 2.8

REUSABLE ARTICLES REQUIRING STERILE PROCESSING

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for transporting and processing reusable articles.

POLICY: Reusable articles will be used as needed for patients on isolation.

- PROCEDURE:**
1. Soiled items are to be placed in a puncture resistant plastic bin and stored in a soiled utility area for pick-up by CSS personnel. The bin will be replaced with a clean one.
 2. Only reusable items should be returned to CSS: needles, blades, gauze, and medications should be removed; liquids used during procedures should be poured from cups and bowls.
 3. Central Sterile Supply personnel must wear appropriate barrier protection when handling contaminated equipment.
 4. Items that are not manufactured for reuse will not be resterilized by Central Sterile Supply without review by the Infection Control Committee.
 5. Items sterilized by CSS will be considered sterile until the integrity of the packaging is compromised (eg. wet, torn).

REFERENCES: Centers for Disease Control, Recommendations for Prevention of HIV Transmission in Health Care Settings, *MMWR*, 36:2s-18s.

Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) Sterilization or Disinfection of Medical Devices, modified August 2002.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Exposure to Blood – What Healthcare Workers Need to Know, 2003.

APPROVAL: Infection Control Committee

REVISION DATES: 12/08, 2/09

REVIEWED DATES: