

PROCEDURE FOR: Care of Surgical Instruments and Powered Equipment in the Perioperative Setting

- POLICY:**
1. Prior to purchasing surgical instruments and powered equipment, the ability to adequately clean and process the items will be evaluated.
 2. Borrowed or consigned instrumentation (ie, loaner) will be examined, cleaned, and sterilized on-site prior to use, according to manufacturer's instructions and per sterilization standards.
 3. Instruments will be kept free of gross soil during surgical procedures.
 4. Cleaning and decontamination will occur as soon as possible after instruments and equipment are used.
 5. Contaminated instrumentation and equipment must be contained during transport and should be transported to the decontamination area in a timely manner to designated decontamination area.
 6. Instruments and equipment will be decontaminated in a designated area that is separated from locations where clean activities are performed.
 7. Practices to reduce or eliminate the risk of sharps injuries associated with decontamination will be observed.
 8. Manufacturers' recommendations will be followed for water quality, cleansing agents, and cleaning methods.
 9. Instruments, endoscopes and powered equipment will be inspected for cleanliness and proper working order after decontamination.
 10. Powered instruments and attachments will be lubricated, assembled, sterilized, and tested before use.
 11. Special precautions will be taken for reprocessing ophthalmic instruments to reduce risk of toxic anterior segment syndrome.
 12. Insulated electrosurgery instruments will be decontaminated after use and visually inspected for damage to insulation. A regular schedule for mechanical inspection will be maintained by the Supervisor.

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13. Special care will be taken to minimize the risk of transmission of prion diseases, and according to JDH Infection Control Manual standards.

14. Personnel handling contaminated instruments and equipment must wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

EQUIPMENT: Washer-Decontaminator
Cart Washer
Ultrasonic cleaner

PROCEDURE: Soiled Instrumentation and Equipment: Transport to and Care in Decontamination Area

Action

Points of Emphasis

1. Prepare soiled items for transport from OR / procedure room to decontamination area as follows:
 - a. submerge or thoroughly flush all instrumentation with lumens;
 - b. submerge heavily soiled instrumentation in basin with water and enzymatic cleanser;
 - c. disarm all disposable sharps and segregate sharp instrumentation;
 - d. restring unused / unsoiled instrumentation with box locks and open soiled instrumentation
 - e. place lighter, delicate items above heavier items;
 - f. place empty scalpel handles in separate basin or otherwise keep separate from instrumentation in trays
2. Cover / enclose soiled instrumentation and equipment during transport to decontamination area.
3. Notify CSS/IR staff of items being left in Decontamination area.

1. All instrumentation used in the operating / procedure room should be decontaminated, whether or not they have been used.

Segregation of sharp instrumentation minimizes the risk of injury to personnel handling the instruments during decontamination. These items include but are not limited to scissors, scalpel handles, and skin hooks.

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| <p>4. Treat hand washable items as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• clean submersible items in sinks, including flushing and brushing lumens or surfaces of items to be washer-decontaminated;• wipe down non-submersible items such as drills and saws• clean microsurgical instruments in sinks first, then follow with ultrasonic cleaning | |
| <p>5. Treat washer-decontaminator items as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• open jaws of all soiled instrumentation; place heaviest items on bottom of containers, lightest on top• non-soiled items may be re-strung as long as box locks are exposed• load baskets so items do not obstruct movement of washer arms. | <p>5. Instrument cases are to be processed through washer-decontaminator.
Do not use rolling carts from washer-decontaminator clean side on the dirty side</p> |
| <p>6. After removing / processing soiled items, place all JDH carts in cart washer or wipe down carts at FSC location.</p> | |
| <p>7. Use endoscope reprocessor according to manufacturer recommendation.</p> | |

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/85

REVISION DATES: 4/93, 9/97, 8/09