

**Respiratory Care Services
John Dempsey Hospital
Policy and Procedure Manual**

Subject: Sterilization of Respiratory Therapy Equipment

Rationale: Colonization of respiratory therapy equipment through cross-contamination or recontamination can lead to increased morbidity and mortality for patients and is preventable by good equipment and personnel technique.

- Procedure:**
1. Non-Disposable Equipment
 - After use, all non-disposable items should be placed in a plastic bag and returned to the Respiratory Care department.
 - Disassemble, then soak in a germicidal detergent for twenty minutes (if applicable).
 - Rinse with tap water and allow to air dry (if applicable).
 - Assemble dried items and package in a plastic bag.
 - Seal bag and tape with ETO indicating tape (green).
 - Send to Central Sterile Supply to be Gas Autoclaved (via Ethylene Oxide).
 - After eight hours of aeration the items are returned to the Respiratory department for patient use.
 2. Isolation Equipment
 - Non-disposable items are double bagged at the bedside and sent directly to Central Sterile Supply for gas sterilization.
 - After eight hours of aeration, the items are returned to Respiratory Therapy for routine cleaning.
Repackage and sent to Central Sterile Supply for terminal sterilization.
 - Disposable items are double bagged and disposed of at the bedside.
 3. Ventilators
 - After use, all surfaces are cleaned with Detergezyme.

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