

Place facility logo/header here

Policy: Reprocessing of Re-useable Medical Equipment/Devices

Date:

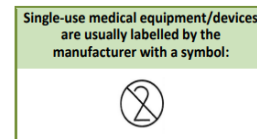
Revised Date:

Purpose: Reprocessing is the cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of reusable medical equipment/devices between each patient use. The safe use and reprocessing of all reusable medical equipment/devices as well as proper care and maintenance of reprocessing equipment is required to reprocess safely.

Sterilization is the elimination of all disease-producing microorganisms, including spores. Sterilization is used on critical medical equipment/devices and, whenever possible, semi-critical medical equipment/devices.

The following shall be adhered to when reprocessing medical equipment/devices whether using steam sterilization or high-level disinfection:

1. Items labeled “**for single use only**” shall not be reused.



2. The following risk classification shall be used to determine the minimum level of reprocessing to be performed on medical equipment/devices that are labeled “reusable”:
The level of reprocessing required for medical equipment/devices is determined by Spaulding’s criteria (see table below).
 - **Critical:** Medical equipment/device that enters sterile body site or vascular system require cleaning followed by sterilization.
 - **Semi-Critical:** Medical equipment/device that comes in contact with intact mucous membranes or non-intact skin require a **minimum** of high-level disinfection – sterilization is preferred. Must be stored in a clean, dry location to ensure the medical equipment/device is free from contamination until time of use.
 - **Non-Critical:** Medical equipment/device that comes in contact with intact skin requires cleaning followed by low-level disinfection.
3. The preferred method for reprocessing of heat-resistant medical equipment/devices is steam sterilization.
4. The manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical equipment/devices shall be followed.
5. Written office/clinic procedures for reprocessing shall be followed.
6. The manufacturer’s instructions for installation and preventive maintenance of equipment used in reprocessing of medical equipment/devices shall be followed and documented.
7. All processes related to cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical equipment/devices shall be monitored and documented.

Place facility logo/header here

8. The sterilization process shall be tested and monitored with results recorded and audited. Records must be retained as per the appropriate regulatory College.
9. There must be a written recall procedure (shall include patient notification) that is followed in the event of a failed biological indicator.
10. All reprocessed medical equipment/devices are stored in a manner to keep them clean and dry.
11. Staff responsible for reprocessing of medical equipment/devices shall be knowledgeable and aware of current standards of practice (PIDAC, CSA). All education and competencies shall be documented.

References:

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice. 1st Revision. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; April 2015.
https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/IPAC_Clinical_Office_Practice_2013.pdf
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical equipment/devices. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; May 2013
https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PIDAC_Cleaning_Disinfection_and_Sterilization_2013.pdf

Spaulding classification of Medical Equipment

Class	Use	Minimum Level of Reprocessing	Examples
Critical	Enters sterile body site, including the vascular system	Cleaning followed by sterilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Surgical instruments▪ Biopsy instruments▪ Foot care/podiatry equipment
Semicritical	Comes in contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes but does not penetrate them	Cleaning followed by high-level disinfection Sterilization is preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vaginal specula▪ Endoscopes▪ Anaesthesia equipment▪ Tonometer
Noncritical	Touches only intact skin and not mucous membranes, or does not directly touch the patient	Cleaning followed by low-level disinfection (in some cases, cleaning alone is acceptable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ECG machines▪ Oximeters▪ Stethoscopes