

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: DECONTAMINATION OF
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS**

PROCEDURE NO: SP2-2

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

All instruments and reusable patient care equipment received into the Decontamination area of Sterile Processing and the O.R. will be considered contaminated and must be processed by sterile processing in a specific manner.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To provide properly cleaned and processed instruments and equipment for use in the hospital and clinics.

PROCEDURE

1. Items will be received into decontamination according to SPD Procedure SP2-13
2. Proper attire in the Sterile Processing Decontamination area will be:
 - Head Cover
 - Shoe Covers
 - Plastic or latex rubber gloves
 - Goggles or face shields
 - Facemask
 - Cover Gown / Plastic Apron
 - Surgical Scrub Suit
3. Surgical Instruments
 - Surgical Instrument sets received into the Decontamination area of Sterile Processing and the O.R.
 - Separate instruments by type, keeping the set together.
 - Open all box locks
 - Neatly array instruments
 - Keep sharps separate from non-sharp instruments.
 - Place the same color marker in multi-tray sets and from the same case.
 - Visible soil is removed by soaking instruments in a premixed detergent solution.
 - Place the instruments in the ultrasonic washer where possible.
 - Some items will require manual cleaning using an instrument brush and/or washcloth.
 - Cleaned instruments are rinsed with tap water making sure all visible soil has been removed.
 - Lumen instruments must be cleaned using a small brush then flushed using a syringe filled first with detergent solution and then tap water.
 - All hand washed items must be washed, holding the instruments underwater and brushing away from the body to prevent aerosolization of contaminated fluids.
 - Instruments able to withstand high temperatures will be run through a washer/disinfector, otherwise hand-washed instruments may be sent through to the Prep & Pack (Clean) room for final inspection and setup.
 - If an instrument is found to have visible contaminants during inspection, it will be sent back through to Decontamination and reprocessed.
 - Manufacturer guidelines will be followed.

7. Powered Instruments

- Follow manufacturer guidelines.
- Hand wash instrument, cords and hoses with approved detergent.
- Never immerse powered instrument in water unless manufacturer instructions specify to do so.
- Wipe electrical cords and hoses with detergent soaked cloth.
- Use a soft bristled brush to clean hard to reach areas.
- Rinse with tap water being careful to avoid getting water inside of instrument or hoses.
- Never run powered instruments through the washer / decontaminator.

Reviewed/Revised

1987, 1990, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009,
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