

# 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 are recommended to keep shoes clean and to prevent slipping on the wet floor
  - Plastic or latex rubber gloves
  - Goggles or face shields
  - Facemask
  - Cover Gown / Plastic Apron
  - Surgical Scrub Suit
- 3: Decontaminating/Disinfecting By The Case
  - Each case should be reprocessed completely and on its own before reprocessing items from other cases.
  - Instruments to be sent through the washer/disinfector.
3. Surgical Instruments
  - Surgical Instrument sets received into the Decontamination area of Sterile Processing and the O.R.
  - Manufacturer guidelines for all instruments will be followed.
  - Separate instruments by type, keeping the set together.
  - Open all box locks and neatly array instruments, keeping sharp instruments separate from non-sharp instruments.
  - Place the same color marker with coordinating number in multi-tray sets and from the same case.
  - Visible soil is removed by soaking instruments in a premixed detergent solution.
  - Brushing and flushing under the water level
  - Place the instruments in the ultrasonic washer when and 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 detergent solution pump or 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, the entire set will be sent back through to Decontamination and reprocessed.

#### 4. Hand washed Instruments

Some items are not designed to be sent through the washer/disinfectors per IFU (instruction for use).

- A. All manufactures instructions will be followed per the handwashing protocol on the IFU.

Reviewed/Revised

1987, 1990, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009,  
2013, 2014, 8/2018

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