

HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: V-116 CARE OF INSTRUMENT & POWERED EQUIPMENT	POLICY #: 1241
	VERSION: 1
APPROVED BY: ASC Approvers	
DATE APPROVED: 06/28/2016	

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the decontamination, cleaning, maintenance, handling and sterilization of surgical instruments and powered surgical instruments.

POLICY: All surgical instruments and power equipment will be handled, used and cleaned properly according to the following procedure.

PROCEDURE:

1. Instruments will be kept free of gross soil during the surgical procedure, if possible. Instruments should be wiped as needed with sterile surgical sponges moistened with sterile water during the procedure to remove gross soil.
2. Instruments with lumens should be irrigated with sterile water as needed throughout the surgical procedure. After the completion of the procedure instruments with lumens will be kept patent by irrigating with sterile water and endozyme solution.
3. The process of decontamination of instruments will occur immediately after completion of surgical procedure.
4. Dirty surgical instruments will be transported to the decontamination area in Central Service (CS) by being placed in an appropriate covered instrument soak container sitting on top of a case cart. An adequate amount of water with the manufacturer's recommended amount of endozyme will be added to the containers to keep the instruments wet. Transport container must be labeled to indicate biohazard contents.
5. All blades and drill bits will be removed from the powered equipment in the OR by the scrub person after the procedure has ended. Blades and drill bits are to be disposed of in the sharps container.
6. Rigid scopes will be wiped with water and be returned back to their original protective case and placed in the case cart.
7. All unused instruments shall be placed in the case cart and will be returned to CS for proper cleaning.

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8. Decontamination:
 - a. Manufacturer's validated instructions will be followed regarding the types of cleaning methods to be used for decontamination of all surgical instruments, medical devices or equipment.
 - b. Automated cleaning method is preferred, but some delicate instruments, powered equipment and other instruments that cannot be submerged can require manual cleaning.
 - c. Manual cleaning should be accomplished by submerging the instrument in warm water with an appropriate detergent followed by complete submersion of the instrument in rinse solution to minimize aerosolization of contaminants.
 - d. Softened or deionized water should be used for final rinse.
 - e. Surgical instruments are to be inspected for cleanliness and proper working after decontamination.
 - f. Mechanical cleaning of surgical instruments should be accomplished by Ultra Sonic cleaners, or washer decontaminators/disinfectors. Ultra Sonic cleaners and washer decontaminators/disinfectors will be used according to the manufacturers operating instructions.
9. Instruments should be thoroughly dried prior to placing into sterilizer.
10. Instruments will be arranged in an orderly fashion in mesh-bottom trays, so all surfaces are exposed to the action of the automated cleaner. The following practice will be completed:
 - a. Open instrument box locks
 - b. Disassemble instruments with removable parts
 - c. Place scissors, lighter weight instruments and microsurgical instruments on top
 - d. Place heavy retractors and/or other heavy instruments in a separate tray
11. Powered surgical instruments will be decontaminated immediately after use. Methods of decontamination will be compatible with the manufacturer's written instructions
 - a. Powered surgical instruments and air hoses will not be immersed in water.
 - b. Powered surgical instruments will be inspected, tested, and used according to manufacturer's written instructions.

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- c. Air and electric hoses will be inspected for damage or wear before and after decontamination and before use.
 - d. Air and electric hoses will be wiped with a clean damp cloth using detergent germicidal solution. All traces of detergent/germicides and excess fluids should be wiped from the surface of all the air hose.
 - e. Powered equipment and attachments should be lubricated with a product specifically recommended by the manufacturer and applied according to the manufacturer instructions.
 - f. Attachments will be affixed to the powered surgical instrument; the unit will be tested before use.
 - g. Triggers/handles will be in a safety position when changing attachments.
 - h. The correct pounds per square inch (ppsi), to operate air-powered instruments, will be set while the instrument is running and/or as determined by the manufacturer’s written instructions.
 - i. Steam is the preferred method of sterilization for most powered surgical instruments.
12. Cleaned surgical instruments will be organized for packing in a manner to allow the sterilant to contact all exposed surfaces.
- a. Instruments with hinges will be opened with those with removable parts will be disassembled when placed in trays for sterilization, unless manufacturer has provided validated instructions to the contrary.
 - b. Broad surfaced instruments and those with concave surfaces are to be placed on edge.
 - c. Instruments will be kept in the open and unlocked position using instrument stringers or racks designated to contain instruments.
13. If moisture is noted upon opening sterile supplies/instruments, they shall be considered contaminated and returned immediately to Central Services.

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