RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL HEHABILITATION CENTER

Infection Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: High Level Disinfectant Solutions Preparation, Use, Monitoring And Disposal

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PURPOSE

It is the policy of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center to prepare, utilize, monitor and dispose of hospital approved high level disinfectants (i.e. Metricide OPA Plus) according to accepted standards, manufacturer recommendations, and federal regulations. High level disinfection should be used only if sterilization is not feasible.

PROCEDURE

1. Preparation
    a. Before using the solution, read the directions for use on the bottle and follow the manufacturer's recommendations accordingly.
    b. When handling hospital approved high level disinfectants the user should always wear gloves, gown, and eyewear.
        NOTE: High level disinfectants can discolor skin or stain clothing. If your skin comes in contact with high level disinfectant wash thoroughly with soap and water. Any discoloration of the skin is temporary and should disappear within 1 or 2 days.
    c. Dispose of the original gallon jug in regular trash after rinsing thoroughly with tap water.

2. Pre-Cleaning Instruction
    a. Before you immerse instruments in a hospital approved high level disinfectant, thoroughly pre-clean soiled medical devices to remove all remaining debris and bioburden with a hospital approved enzymatic cleanser according to the manufacturer's instructions.
    b. Once the instruments have been removed from the hospital approved enzymatic cleanser solution, thoroughly rinse with large amounts of water and air dry.
    c. Inspect the instrument and, if necessary, repeat pre-cleaning steps.

3. Use of hospital approved high level disinfectant
    a. Record the expiration date of the hospital approved high level disinfectant on the container as well as the test strips. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for the product's shelf life.
    b. Wash the inside and outside of the container for the hospital approved high level disinfectant with clear water prior to adding solution.
    c. The concentration of the hospital approved high level disinfectant solution must be verified according to the manufacturer's recommendations ***prior to each use*** to ensure the effectiveness of the solution.

d. Quality Control of the hospital approved high level disinfectant. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations
    I. Testing of positive and negative controls will be performed on:
        a. each newly opened test strip bottle of hospital approved high level disinfectant and
        b. when a new bottle of hospital approved high level disinfectant Solution is opened.
    II. Prepare the control solutions to perform the Quality Control (QC) test:
        a. Verify the expiration date of the hospital approved high level disinfectant
        b. Full strength hospital approved high level disinfectant may be used as the positive control
        c. Prepare a negative control by diluting 1 part full strength hospital approved high level disinfectant with 1 part water
        d. Label each solution
    III. Dip 3 test strips into each of the prepared solutions one at a time for 2 seconds
    IV. Shake the strip to remove excess solution and read the results according to the manufacturer's specifications and refer to the color chart on the test strip bottle for interpretation of test results.
    V. If the test strip indicates that the hospital approved high level disinfectant solution is at or above the minimum recommended concentration, then continue the high level disinfection process.
    VI. Record results in hospital approved high level disinfectant log.
e. Immerse the pre-cleaned and dried instrument completely in the hospital approved high level disinfectant for a period of time recommended by the manufacturer.
f. After removing the instrument from the hospital approved high level disinfectant, thoroughly rinse the device by immersing it completely in a large volume of water for a period of time recommended by the instrument manufacturer.
   NOTE: The instrument must be rinsed for a total of THREE rinses in new water for each rinse.
g. Keep the solution covered at all times.
h. Manually flush all lumens, if any, with large volumes of water unless otherwise noted by the device manufacturer.
i. After rinsing, dry the wet instrument with air or a towel or according to the instrument manufacturer's recommendations.
j. Store in a manner to minimize re- contamination.

4. Disposal of hospital approved high level disinfectant
    a. Discard residual and used hospital approved high level disinfectant according to federal, state, and local regulations, generally by pouring it down the drain with large quantities of water.
    b. The solution should be disposed of according to the manufacturer's recommendations:
        - Even if the solution test strip indicates a concentration above the minimum recommended concentration,
        - When there is visible debris in the container, or
        - When the test strip indicates a concentration below the minimum recommended concentration

    a. Wash solution container with clear water inside and outside prior to adding solution.

Reference:

Metrex. (n.d.). *How to use Metricide OPA Plus solution* [Brochure].

Steris. (n.d.).