



# Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

### OPERATING ROOM

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

---

**SUBJECT:** DISINFECTION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

**Policy No.:** OR37  
**Supersedes:** ALL  
**Revised Date:** 01/2016  
**Page:** 1 of 2

---

**Purpose of Procedure:** To define the process used to prevent cross contamination of instruments and equipment.

**Policy Statement:** All equipment and instruments used in the Operating Room that cannot withstand sterilization or when sterilization is not feasible will be disinfected with Hospital approved disinfectant prior to their use in a surgical procedure.

**Performed By:** RN, Surgical Technician

**Equipment:**

- Sterile pan with lid
- Hospital approved disinfectant
- Gloves
- Mask
- Timer
- Sterile distilled water
- Sterile towel
- Monitoring strips

**Procedural Steps:**

1. RN and or Surgical Technician will open a sterile soaking pan using aseptic technique.
2. After the scrub nurse or surgical technician is gowned and gloved, the soaking pan is opened and sterilized equipment or instruments are removed and placed in the sterile basin.
3. Carefully pour hospital approved disinfectant into pan.  
**KEY POINT:** Personnel should wear gloves and eye protection whenever handling or pouring this solution.
4. Place all items to be soaked into the solution.  
**KEY POINT:** Items to be disinfected must be meticulously cleaned, rinsed and as dry as possible prior to disinfection to avoid interference with the disinfecting process.
5. All surfaces of the items must be in contact with the hospital approved disinfectant for the amount of time recommended by the manufacturer.  
**KEY POINT:** Once the soaking time has been started nothing can be added.
6. While the instruments are soaking, sterile distilled water is poured into a large rinse pan by the circulating nurse.

7. At the completion of the soaking period, each item will be removed aseptically from the solution, rinsed in sterile water, and dried with a sterile towel. Instruments are then assembled and placed on the sterile field.
8. The solution is kept in the covered pan.
9. Daily monitoring of the solution is done by test strips by OR personnel and the monitoring information will be kept on the log per manufacturer guidelines.  
**KEY POINT:** If the solution fails to indicate that it is active, it is discarded.

Documentation

1. Hospital approved disinfectant expiration date is marked on the label of the covered pan containing the hospital approved disinfectant by the OR personnel opening the solution.
  2. Daily monitoring of solution is indicated on the log.
- 

**Revised By:** Susie Choi, RN, CNOR

**References:**

Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2015 Edition  
Advance Sterilization Products Manufacture Guidelines

---

07/99 - Revised  
07/02 – 10/12 Revised  
01/2016 - Reviewed

OR37