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Procedure Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT POINT-OF-USE AND PRE-CLEANING	Effective Date: 09/15/22
	Previous Versions:
Policy Title: Sterilization	Approved By: Carrie Walters
	Approval Date: 09/14/22

I. Definitions:

Point-of-Use: The place where the surgical instruments are used.

II. Procedure:

Staff will pre-clean surgical instruments at the Point-of-Use immediately after the procedure and transport them in an appropriate container.

A. Pre-Procedure Setup

Obtain all necessary equipment, including instruments for pre-treatment product, rigid transport container (clean), lint free surgical towels or gauze, sterile water.

B. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wear a gown, mask with shield or goggles, and gloves during the pre-treatment process to protect from blood borne pathogens and other infectious diseases.

C. Pre-Treatment

1. At the end of the procedure, staff will complete the following steps:
 - a. Assemble all hinged instruments (used and unused) in open position.
 - b. In addition to irrigation of instruments with sterile water during the procedure, perform a final irrigation with sterile water of all lumens and cannulas.
 - c. Arrange instruments in a manner that will permit contact of cleaning solutions with all surfaces (i.e., heavier instruments separated from delicate instruments and delicate instruments placed at the top).
 - d. Open and disassemble instruments with more than one piece according to manufacturer's instructions.
 - e. Remove gross soil and physical debris with lint free cloth moistened with sterile water.
2. Prepare instruments in a manner which will maintain moisture and prevent organic soils from drying by one of the following methods:
 - a. Use pre-treatment product according to manufacturer's instructions, applying to all instruments (used and unused) at the Point-of-Use.

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- b. Place items inside a package designed to maintain a moist atmosphere (e.g., Humipak)
- c. Procedural setting: If required by manufacturer’s instructions, place lint free towel/cloth moistened with sterile water (not saline) and transport immediately to Sterile Processing Department.
- d. Non-procedural room setting: Place a lint free towel/cloth moistened with sterile water (not saline) on the instruments in a rigid container and transport to the soiled utility room. Apply pre-treatment product upon arrive to the soiled utility room.

D. Transport

Transport soiled instruments to the decontamination area in a closed rigid container with a tight-fitting and/or latching lid or enclosed transport cart. The container must be:

- 1. Leak proof
- 2. Puncture resistant
- 3. Large enough to contain all contents and allow lid to close
- 4. Labeled as biohazard

III. References:

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization and Sterility Assurance in Health Care Facilities (ST79: 2017) and OSHA regulations related to occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030) guide compliance with these requirements.

ANSI/AAMI ST79 Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization and Sterility Assurance in Health Care Facilities, 2017

OSHA, 29 CFR 1910.1030

Pre-Treatment Competencies