

POLICY: Point-of-Use Cleaning on Units
Program Area: Medical Device Reprocessing
Section: General
Reference Number: CLI.5510.PL.011
Approved by: Regional Lead – Acute Care & Chief Nursing Officer
Date: Issued 2025/Jan/29
Revised

POLICY SUBJECT:

Point-of-use cleaning for the following units, including but not limited to, Emergency Department (ED), Obstetrical (Obs) Department, Operating Room (OR), and Units for manual cleaning and disinfection of instruments and equipment.

PURPOSE:

- To ensure reusable surgical instruments/equipment are cleaned, disinfected and sterilized in compliance with infection control guidelines as recommended by manufacturer’s instructions.
- Cleaning of reusable instruments/equipment is at point-of-use in the decontamination area (i.e. soiled utility room), by trained staff immediately after use. Single use items are not reprocessed.
- Manual cleaning and disinfection (LLD) for re-usable noncritical instruments/equipment, that have contact with skin only and do not enter body cavities or pierce through the skin can be done at point-of-use by trained staff.
- Manual cleaning of reusable items is performed at point-of use before being transported to the Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) department for further decontamination and high-level disinfection (HLD) or sterilization.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitation (EL-02) Treatment of Clients
Executive Limitation (EL-07) Corporate Risk

POLICY:

To ensure point-of-use manual cleaning and disinfection of instruments/equipment complies with infection prevention control guidelines as recommended by manufacturer’s instruction to minimize patient risk and prevent health care associated transmission of microorganisms.

DEFINITIONS:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - gloves, waterproof water-resistant gowns or gowns appropriate to the task, masks, protective eyewear and face protection used according to risk of exposure to prevent transmission of micro-organisms.

Enzymatic Detergent - low-foaming detergents, which add enzymes capable of digesting organic material such as blood and mucous.

Pre-Klenz - gel used to initiate the cleaning process at point-of-use to maintain moisture during transport.

Low Level Disinfection (LLD) - a process of killing most vegetative bacteria and not bacterial spores. Required when processing non-critical medical devices.

High Level Disinfection (HLD) - a process capable of killing vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria (including mycobacteria tuberculosis, fungi, and lipid and nonlipid viruses), as well as some, but not necessarily high numbers of bacterial spores.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Reusable instruments/equipment are cleaned prior to being sent to MDR for further cleaning, HLD or sterilizing reprocessing. CLI.5510.PL.011.SD.01 A Point of Use Cleaning at Ward Level.
- Pre-Klenz solution is sprayed on soiled instruments if not being reprocessed in a timely manner. Pre-Klenz can be left on the instruments up to 72 hours.
- Staff assigned to clean and disinfect health care instruments/equipment:
 - Are properly trained,
 - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as per routine practices,
 - Be encouraged to be immunized against Hepatitis B and
 - Practice good hand hygiene.
- Cleaning is the first and most important step in instruments/equipment reprocessing. Effective disinfection and sterilization are dependent on proper cleaning. Any residual debris, such as tissue, blood, or other body fluids, not removed from instruments/equipment prior to disinfection or sterilization, result in contaminated instruments/equipment.
- Disinfection is a two-step process. The first step is proper cleaning of the instruments/equipment. The second step is to make sure that the disinfectant’s manufacturer’s instructions are followed. Following the instructions is extremely important. The disinfectant must have contact with the instruments/equipment for the full-recommended contact time listed in the product directions. Failure to follow manufacture’s instruction results in improper disinfected instruments/equipment.

PROCEDURE:

Cleaning Procedure for Instruments, Instrument trays and Equipment.

1	PREPARE	RATIONALE
	Perform hand hygiene:	According to IPC policy and prior to donning Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
	Put on personal protective equipment as recommended by routine practices and cleaning product manufacturer’s recommendations.	Each worker is responsible for personal safety. Gloves, waterproof gown, mask and eye/face protection maybe required.
	Clean sink in designated area with facility approved disinfectant.	Sink must be large and deep enough to immerse instruments/equipment completely.
2.	Sort:	
	Separate instruments/equipment into groups of similar size. Keep sharp and/or delicate instruments/equipment together.	To prevent injury to personnel, damage to instruments/equipment and ensure instruments tray sets are complete.
	Be sure all instruments/equipment are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In “open” position. ➤ Disassembled/remove all parts as required. 	To ensure all surfaces of instruments/equipment are cleaned and come in contact with disinfectant cleaner.
3.	Cleaning/Rinsing:	

	Instruments/equipment that are grossly soiled are pre-rinsed with warm tap water to remove gross soil/debris.	Failure of timely removal of soiled organic material, such as blood, feces, mucous or pus left on instrument/equipment may damage the items and stops the action of disinfectants or sterilants.
	Place pre-rinsed instruments/equipment open, disassembled, as required, single-layered if feasible into the MDR bin. Cover bin with lid for transportation to MDR for further cleaning in washer disinfectant and High-Level Disinfection or Sterilization.	
4.	Pre- Klenz (If Pre-Klenz being used omit 3)	
	Arrange fully opened and disassembled instruments in a bin or container, ensuring the instruments aren't over crowded in the bin or container. Spray liberally with Pre-Klenz ensuring all surfaces have contact with Pre-Klenz.	Pre-Klenz is designed to keep instruments moist and initiate the cleaning process. Pre-Klenz is validated to remain on instrumentation for up to 72 hours.
	If requiring multiple layers on instruments in the bin or container, apply Pre-Klenz over each layer so each instrument has full contact with Pre-Klenz.	Failure to ensure each instrument has contact with Pre-Klenz may result in bioburden to dry onto the instruments resulting in damage to the instruments, such as pitting and corrosion.
	Secure lid onto bin or container of instruments.	Instruments that have been applied with Pre-Klenz are kept in an air-tight bin or containers to prohibit the Pre-Klenz from drying and ensuring the instrument remain in a moist environment until further processing.
5.	Clean Area	
	When finished, drain and rinse sink. Dry sink with cloth and wipe out with approved disinfectant.	
	Dry counter and wipe with approved disinfectant	
	Apply clean soaker pad to counter.	
	Low –Level Disinfection (LLD) Procedure for items not being sent to MDR	
1.	PREPARE:	RATIONALE
	Perform hand hygiene.	According to IPC policy and prior to donning PPE
	Put on personal protective equipment as recommended by routine practices and disinfectant product manufacturer's recommendations.	Each worker is responsible for personal safety. Use PPE as recommended.
	Wipe counter with approved disinfectant.	
2.	Disinfect	
	Wipe all surfaces of the instruments/equipment for one minute or recommended manufacture time. Ensure that all surfaces of the item remain visibly wet for contact time. To be effective instruments/equipment must be wet during disinfection.	To achieve effective disinfection, disinfectant's manufacturer's recommendation must be followed. Keeping instruments/equipment wet with disinfectant according to manufacturer's instructions will kill bacteria and virus and achieve low-level disinfection.
3.	Dry	
	After disinfection, place instruments/equipment on clean absorbable soaker pad to air-dry.	

	When instruments/equipment are dry, they can be stored or put back into circulation for patient use.	
4.	Clean Work Area	
	When finished wipe counter with approved disinfectant.	
	Apply clean soaker pad to counter.	

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES:

- PPE (water resistant gown, glove, eye protection, face shield, mask)
- Absorbable soaker pads
- Facility approved disinfectant
- Enzymatic detergent
- Pre-Klenz gel
- Clock or timer
- Lint-Free Cloths
- Instrument cleaning brush

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

[CLI.5510.PL.011.SD.01](#) A Point of Use Cleaning at Ward Level

REFERENCES:

CSA Standards Z314:23 Section 11.2.1