

SAMPLE

Chemical Disinfection

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for disinfection of instrumentation and durable equipment.

POLICY: The recommended guidelines for disinfection of instrumentation and durable equipment will be followed.

PROCEDURE:

1. The selection and use of chemical disinfectants.
 - A. Critical items (items that enter sterile tissue of the vascular system) shall be sterile.
 - a. Endoscopes and other endoscopic equipment that enter body cavities are classified as critical items and shall be subject to a sterilization process. If this is not possible, they shall receive at least high-level disinfection.
 - B. Semi-critical items (items that encounter mucous membranes of non-intact skin) shall receive high-level disinfection.
 - C. Basic cleaning may be sufficient for non-critical items (items that come in contact only with intact skin) and shall receive intermediate to low level disinfection.
2. Items shall be thoroughly cleaned before disinfection.
 - A. In accordance to manufacturer's written instructions, medical devices with multiple pieces shall be disassembled for cleaning.
 - B. Enzymatic detergents may be used to facilitate the cleaning process.
 - C. Following the cleaning process, instruments shall be thoroughly rinsed and dried before the disinfection process.
3. Chemical disinfectants shall be used per the Association of Practitioners in Infection Control (APIC) recommended guidelines.
 - A. All chemical disinfectants used in the practice setting shall be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - B. Manufacturer's written instructions shall be followed when preparing solutions and calculating expiration dates.
 - C. The efficacy of the chemical disinfectant shall be checked and documented once in each 24-hour period of normal operating hours.
 - D. Items shall be completely immersed in the chemical disinfectant.
 - a. Lumens shall be completely immersed in the chemical disinfectant.

- E. Items shall remain immersed for the entire recommended exposure time.
 - F. Critical and semi-critical items shall be thoroughly rinsed by immersing them manually in three (3) separate volumes of sterile water, or a continuous rinse with an automated system.
 - a. Lumens shall be flushed with sterile water during each of the three (3) separate manual rinses.
4. The practice setting shall provide a safe environment for personnel when using chemical disinfectants.
- A. Chemical disinfectants shall be kept in a covered container.
 - B. Chemical disinfectants shall be kept in well ventilated areas.
 - C. Protective apparel, including eyewear and gloves shall be worn when using chemical disinfectants.
 - a. Additional protective apparel shall be worn dependent on risk.
 - D. Disposal of chemical disinfectants shall adhere to Federal, State, and Local regulations.