Standard Operating Procedure

Identification and Handling of Complex, Delicate, and Difficult to Clean Medical Devices

Document #: MDR.1.1.1
Initial effective date: November 2018
Last updated: May 2026
Next review: May 2029

OBJECTIVES

To identify and ensure complex, delicate, and difficult to clean medical devices are reprocessed safely and effectively.

PRINCIPLES

All medical device reprocessing shall be done in accordance with manufacturers' instructions for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of medical devices.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staff, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary) working within the Medical Device Reprocessing Area (MDRA).

ELEMENTS

1. Complex medical devices require current and validated manufacturers' instructions for use and device-specific procedures to be easily accessible to staff. Examples of these devices include but are not limited to flexible scopes, robotic devices, and flexible reamers.

2. Delicate medical devices shall be segregated from heavier items to prevent damage to instrumentation or injury to personnel. Examples of these devices include but are not limited to micro-surgical devices, ophthalmologic devices and lenses, and rigid and flexible endoscopes.

3. For medical devices that are difficult to reprocess or cannot be reprocessed effectively or safely, single-use medical devices or components shall be used. This decision should be made in consultation with the MDRA, Infection Prevention and Control, Workplace Health and Safety, and other end-user departments. Examples of these devices or components include

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but are not limited to long and narrow lumens and channels that are not freely accessible, devices that cannot be readily disassembled, and crevices, joints, rough, or discontinuous surfaces that can entrap or retain bioburden and impurities.

DEFINITIONS

None.

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents
  - Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing / Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA Z314:23)

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
November 2018	Initial approval
May 2026	Last updated
May 2029	Next revision date

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