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

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OBJECTIVES

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

PRINCIPLES

- All reprocessing shall be done in accordance with Manufacturer Instructions for cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical devices.
- Device specific reprocessing procedures (recipes) shall be readily available to staff.

APPLICABILITY

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 Medical Device Reprocessing.

ELEMENTS

1. Identify complex, delicate and difficult to clean medical devices

1.1 Complex devices include but are not limited to:

- power devices;
- endoscopic and laparoscopic devices;
- flexible scopes;
- cameras;
- robotic devices;
- orthopaedic devices;
- flexible reamers;
- rasps;
- instrument sets with multiple layers;
- laser devices;
- multi-component devices which require disassembly.

1.2 Delicate devices include but are not limited to:

- micro-surgical devices;
- ophthalmologic devices and lenses;

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- sets with multiple tiny parts;
- rigid and flexible endoscopes.

1.3 Difficult to clean devices include but are not limited to devices with:

- lumens, cannulas or channels;
- channels that are not freely accessible;
- crevices, joints, or surface pores;
- close-fitting, metal-on-metal fittings with very close tolerances;
- hinges or ribbing in instruments (e.g., forceps, clamps);
- rough, irregular surfaces that can entrap or retain bio-burden and impurities;
- hinges, depressions, or joints with gaps, as well as ribbed or otherwise roughened surfaces, and jaws;
- luer locks or valves;
- junctions between insulating sheaths and activating mechanisms (as in certain laparoscopic instruments);
- spring-like coils;
- devices that cannot be readily disassembled (e.g., arthroscopy forceps).

Note: If devices are determined to be difficult to clean, single use devices should be considered**.**

DEFINITIONS

None.

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services documents
  - *Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing. (Canadian Standards Association)* (CAN/CSA Z314-18)

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
November 2018	Initial approval
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