Standard Operating Procedure

Thermal High-level Disinfection

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OBJECTIVES

Provide guidelines for effective thermal high-level disinfection (HLD)

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.

Note: Site specific procedures shall be developed and followed based on the specific equipment that is used.

ELEMENTS

1. Thermal disinfection is achieved through pasteurization or pasteurization equivalency that is validated in a washer-disinfector.
   - 1.1 Manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU) shall be followed for all medical devices.
   - 1.2 Items are disassembled as required.
   - 1.3 Manual cleaning of devices
     - a) Soiled devices should be presoaked;
     - b) Lumens and crevices shall be cleaned and brushed with a soft brush;
     - c) Devices should be completely submerged during cleaning to ensure internal lumens have complete contact with detergent and to minimize aerosols;
     - d) Disassembled devices shall be washed with an appropriately prepared detergent as per MIFU;
     - e) Sinks, cloths, brushes shall be cleaned and disinfected between uses;
     - f) Devices shall be thoroughly rinsed with clean water;
   - 1.4 Thermal disinfection of devices
     - a) Load the washer disinfector or pasteurizer washer as per manufacturer's instructions.
     - b) Upon completion of the cycle the temperature, time and cycle completion shall be monitored, verified for efficacy and documented.

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c) Following thermal HLD devices shall be handled in a way to prevent contamination (i.e. removal of personal protective equipment and perform hand hygiene).
d) Devices shall be placed in a HEPA filtered drying cabinet.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

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

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
September 2019	Initial approval
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