

## SFHDEC3

### Prepare, load and operate decontamination equipment



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#### Overview

This standard covers preparing and loading medical devices for decontamination. It covers both manual cleaning of instruments and the loading and operation of automated decontamination equipment in the Sterile Services Department.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention control any other relevant health and safety measures
- P2 check that all daily tests are completed satisfactorily and results recorded in appropriate log books accurately and legibly before using cleaning equipment, reporting any abnormal performance of the cleaning equipment promptly to the appropriate member of staff
- P3 identify the correct process for the medical devices to be decontaminated
- P4 load medical devices to be decontaminated in the correct position in baskets so that maximum exposure to the decontamination process is achieved on all surfaces of the instrument
- P5 maintain permissible weight and reach limits in accordance with manual handling regulations when loading medical devices
- P6 check instruments off against the checklist returned with the set and take notice of any comments made on the check list by the theatre team/user
- P7 identify medical devices requiring special attention and handle in accordance with documented manufacturers instructions
- P8 dismantle medical devices to be processed where this is required and appropriate
- P9 use brushes and jet sprays on all cannulated medical devices with the spray and instrument fully submerged
- P10 follow the manufacturers instructions and documented guidelines regarding manual cleaning of medical devices
- P11 dry manually cleaned medical devices with non linting towels or in hot air drying cabinets before allowing them to enter the controlled environment
- P12 maintain records of all medical devices received and prepared for processing
- P13 keep sets of medical devices being processed together where possible
- P14 identify and follow operating instructions for automated washer disinfectors (AWD's) accurately
- P15 manually clean medical devices that are too large or unsuitable for mechanical washer/disinfector in accordance with the protocol displayed, making use of the drying cabinet where appropriate
- P16 comply with manufacturers' and organisation specifications when using all appliances and processing of medical devices

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to preparing, loading and operating decontamination equipment
- K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
- K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
- K4 the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols which affect your work practice in relation to preparing, loading and operating decontamination equipment
- K5 your responsibilities under the current European, and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols within the care environment
- K6 the importance of applying standard precautions to preparing, loading and operating decontamination equipment and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K7 your responsibilities and accountability under the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols when decontaminating medical devices
- K8 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K9 the concentrations of detergents and other chemicals used in the wash area for all medical devices
- K10 which cleaning equipment and materials should be used on different surfaces and for different cleaning procedures
- K11 the effect of detergents and the importance of cleaning medical devices before disinfection
- K12 the function of decontamination equipment in use
- K13 the time and temperature requirements to achieve decontamination and disinfection of all medical devices processed in the automatic washer disinfectors in the decontamination facility
- K14 how manually cleaned medical devices is made safe to pass through to the clean assembly area
- K15 the importance of carrying out routine daily/weekly checks on washer disinfectant equipment
- K16 how routine daily/weekly checks on decontamination equipment are performed
- K17 the importance of monitoring the functioning of decontamination

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- equipment while in use
- K18 the correct action to take in the event of failure of decontamination equipment
- K19 the preparation and processing of all medical devices in common use
- K20 the procedures for dealing with inadequately cleaned medical devices
- K21 conducting performance checks and recording results of the washer disinfectant
- K22 procedures for monitoring the throughput of medical devices
- K23 the importance of correctly recording machine data using log books/computer records to record machine data
- K24 conducting performance checks and record results
- K25 procedures for recording the throughput of medical devices
- K26 situations when a decontamination certificate is required
- K27 interpretation of the graph record chart or digital printout of parameters met on the washer disinfectant
- K28 the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

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### Additional Information

#### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: EF2 Environments and buildings

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<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
<b>Version number</b>	1
<b>Date approved</b>	May 2009
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<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
<b>Original URN</b>	DEC3
<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Health, Public Services and Care; Health and Social Care; Managers and Senior Officials; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Personal Service Occupations; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
<b>Suite</b>	Decontamination
<b>Key words</b>	Decontamination, automated, ultrasonic, irrigation, daily tests or logs, start up shut down, medical devices