



# Manual Cleaning Of Used Instruments Procedure

Procedure Number

CHC-IC-0054

Version Nos:

2

## 1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process for cleaning of used instrument throughout the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB), in compliance with AS 4187:2003.

## 2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all clinical staff throughout WCDHB, but not on instruments identified as for single use only.

## 3. Definitions

There are no definitions associated with this Procedure.

## 4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

**Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control** is required to:

- oversee all aspects of this Procedure
- monitor the performance of WCDHB staff members in relation to this Procedure;

**Staff Members** are required to:

- ensure they abide by the requirements of this Procedure;
- abide by all WCDHB Infection Control Policy and Procedures;
- abide by all WCDHB Health and Safety Policy and Procedure.

## 5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- PPE

## 6. Process

- 1.00 Where ever possible it is recommended that all instruments be returned to Grey Base Hospital to be processed through the automated instrument washer in the Central Sterilising Department (CSD). However should it be necessary for instruments to be manually cleaned then this Procedure is to be followed.
- 1.01 Standard precautions are to be followed at all stages of handling, to prevent exposure to blood and body substances. This includes the wearing of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- 1.02 Cleaning techniques are carried out in such a manner to avoid the generation of aerosols\*.
- 1.03 Wearing full PPE, flush the item under running water (temperature range between 15 – 30 degrees Celsius), to ensure removal of gross visible blood and body fluid substances.
- 1.04 Fill the sink with warm water approx 45 degrees C, and detergent to the concentration recommended by the manufacturer.
- 1.05 Dismantle and open all items for cleaning, prior to the placement in the cleaning solution.



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- 1.06 Hold the items low in the sink, to limit the generation of aerosols\* during scrubbing, wash all surfaces of the item, including all lumens, valves, and joints using a small brush with firm bristles.
- 1.07 Remove stubborn stains by using a non-abrasive scouring pad or soaking in an approved stain removal solution.
- 1.08 With all instruments fully opened, use the Ultrasonic unit to ultrasonically clean the instruments for a full cycle (7 minutes).
- 1.09 Rinse the items in warm – hot running water, to remove all detergent and debris.
- 1.10 Dry using lint free cloths. Check the cleanliness of all items before dispatching to the packing area of CSSD.

*(\*Cleaning techniques are carried out in such a manner to avoid the generation of aerosols. All instruments have an initial cleaning close to the point of use this reduces the amount of bio burden on the instruments. Delays cause a great increase in the bio burden. Aerosols create risks to staff these include-*

1. Risk of exposure to infectious micro organisms contained in the aerosols.
2. Risk of staff exposure to chemicals contained in the aerosols.
3. Risk of aerosols resulting from the cleaning process being dispersed within the cleaning area & depositing contaminated material throughout the cleaning area)

## 7. Precautions and Considerations

- ➔ All Staff are to adhere to standard precaution requirements
- ➔ All Cleaning techniques are to be carried out in such a manner to avoid the generation of aerosols
- ➔ Remove stubborn stains by using a non abrasive scouring pad or soaking in an approved stain removal solution

## 8. References

Australian/ New Zealand Standard – AS/NZS 4187:2003

## 9. Related Documents

WCDHB Health and Safety Procedure Manual  
WCDHB Infection Control Procedure Manual

<b>Revision History</b>	<b>Version:</b>	2
	<b>Developed By:</b>	Infection Control
	<b>Authorized By:</b>	Infection Control Committee
	<b>Date Authorised:</b>	March 2004
	<b>Date Last Reviewed:</b>	May 2009
	<b>Date Of Next Review:</b>	May 2011