



Central Arizona Dental Foundation

STERILIZATION PROTOCOL FOR INSTRUMENT PROCESSING

Please practice universal precautions and follow all standard infection control practices.

Begin instrument processing by cleaning your hands and donning personal protective equipment – Fluid resistant body protection, protective eyewear, mask, and heavy duty nitrile gloves.

WHILE AT THE TREATMENT CHAIR

1. Place all contaminated sharps into the sharps container closest to the point of use. Never carry contaminated sharps by hand and **Do not walk the clinic floor with sharps.**
2. Place biohazard waste into biohazard container or bag. Red Bag waste bags should be sealed and will be disposed of in designated 5-gallon Red Bag Waste Containers.
3. Throw empty carpules without anesthetic in the regular garbage. Carpules with visible blood should be disposed of in biohazard sharps containers.
4. Place carpules with left over anesthetic into the designated plastic container labeled “For Incineration Only” located near the biohazard sharps container.
5. Place amalgam capsules, scrap amalgam, and extracted teeth containing amalgam into the designated plastic containers for amalgam waste.
6. Place any crowns that were removed into the designated container for Crowns for Kids.
7. Wipe any debris from used instruments using gauze, and place instruments back into cassette and close cassette. Place any hinged instrument into cassette in the “open position.”
8. Carefully transport the tray to the bio hazard contaminated instrument collection area designated in each of treatment areas.
9. Transfer the cassette and all remaining used items into the plastic container designated for contaminated instruments located in each of the treatment areas.
10. Remove your gloves. Use hand sanitizer.

TRANSPORTING CONTAMINATED INSTRUMENTS TO STERILIZATION AREA

1. Use a hand sanitizer and then don heavy duty gloves.
2. Place the lid to the plastic transporting container on securely.
3. Walk the container with the used instruments to the “Used ADCF Instruments” area.
4. Remove the lid.
5. Sterilizing volunteers will remove the instruments from the container. These volunteers will be wearing utility gloves.
6. Place the lid back on the contaminated instrument container return the container to the area of the clinic from which it came (restorative, hygiene, numbing, oral surgery or pediatrics).

Open the container so that instruments can be easily placed inside until container is ready to be transported again.

PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS

1. Use the same protocol as above to transport personal instruments to the sterilization area.
2. Take personal instruments to the area in sterilization designated for personal used instruments.
3. Write your name on the outside of a sterilization pouch.
4. If special handling of your instruments is required, instruct the sterilization volunteer on the process each time you bring the instruments to sterilization.
5. Allow 45 minutes for your instruments to be processed.
6. Pick up clean personal instrument from the designated area in sterilization.

CLEANING USED INSTRUMENTS

1. Clean hands with alcohol hand rub and don gloves. Then don heavy duty utility gloves
2. Place cassettes and any loose instruments in ultrasonic cleaner and replace the cover. Process instruments for 5-10 minutes.
3. Lift the basket inside ultrasonic cleaner and rinse. Dump instruments onto clean dry towel. If additional items are still in ultrasonic cleaner, use tongs to pick-up. Do not reach into the ultrasonic cleaner to remove instruments.
4. Place a second clean, dry towel on top of instruments and thoroughly dry prior to packaging.
5. If additional manual scrubbing is necessary, use a long-handled brush.
6. Visually inspect instruments for residual debris and damage; re-clean/replace as necessary.

LUBRICATING HANDPIECES

1. Place each hand piece on the lubricator and push start.
2. Wipe off any visible debris.
3. Place the hand piece into a sterilization bag.

PACKAGING INSTRUMENTS

1. After cleaning and drying the instruments, place them in a sterilizing pouch.
2. Package loose instruments so they lay in a single layer.
3. Hinged instruments should be processed opened and unlocked.
4. Transport the cassettes and pouches to the sterilizer area.

STERILIZATION

1. Place instruments in the sterilizer.
2. Load the sterilizer according to manufacturer's instructions. Do not overload. Use the manufacturer's recommended cycle times for wrapped instruments.
3. With clean, gloved hands, lock the door and press start.
4. Allow packages to cool before handling. Use the oven mitts provided to remove sterilized instruments.
5. When removing packages from sterilizer verify sterilization has occurred by inspecting process indicators.

INSTRUMENT DISPENSION

1. Several volunteers will be designated to dispense instruments to volunteers. These are the only volunteers that should handle sterilized instruments after they have cooled. Clinical volunteers (assistants, hygienists, dentists) are not allowed to reach into bins or grab sterilized instruments themselves.
2. Volunteers designated to dispense instruments should wash hands with alcohol hand sanitizer and don gloves. Place the requested instruments set-ups on barrier covered trays for transport by clinical volunteers to treatment areas.
3. Clinical staff will request what instruments they need and should wash hands with hand rub before receiving trays or instrument pouches for transport back to treatment areas.
4. Packages containing sterile supplies should be inspected before use to verify barrier integrity and dryness.
5. If packaging is compromised, instruments shall be re-cleaned, repackaged, and sterilized again.