

Infection Control Instructions

Accidental Sharps Injury Management

If a needlestick or sharps injury occurs:

1. Stop immediately and put the instrument aside safely.
2. Encourage gentle bleeding of the wound (do not squeeze forcefully).
3. Wash thoroughly with soap and running water — do not scrub or apply alcohol or bleach.
4. Report the incident to your supervisor or infection control officer immediately.

Instructions for Packing disposal of shrap instruments

Step 1: Preparation Before Procedure

1. Ensure a puncture-proof sharps container is placed at the point of use (within arm's reach).
2. Confirm that the container:
 - Is clearly labeled “SHARPS ONLY” with the biohazard symbol.
 - Is not more than three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) full.
3. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) — gloves, mask, protective eyewear, and gown.

Step 2: Safe Handling During Use

- Handle sharps carefully and minimally.
- Never pass sharps hand-to-hand; use a tray or neutral zone.
- Do not recap, bend, or break needles after use.
- Keep sharps pointed away from yourself and others at all times.

Step 3: Immediate Disposal After Use

- Immediately after use, place the sharp instrument directly into the sharps container.
- Drop the item one at a time, without applying pressure or using hands to push it in.
- Never dispose of sharps in regular waste bins or plastic bags.
- Ensure the sharps container remains upright and easily accessible.

Instructions for Packing Instruments for Sterilization

Step 1: Preparation

1. Wear full personal protective equipment (PPE): heavy-duty gloves, mask, protective eyewear, and gown.
2. Work only in the designated instrument cleaning area.
3. Keep contaminated instruments separate from clean ones to prevent cross-contamination.

Step 2: Cleaning of Instruments

1. Rinse instruments immediately after use under running water to remove visible debris.
2. Use ultrasonic cleaner or manual scrubbing with a long-handled brush and detergent/enzyme solution.
3. Always keep instruments submerged during scrubbing to avoid splashing.
4. Rinse instruments again with clean water after washing.
5. Do not use metal brushes or abrasives that can damage the instrument surface.

Step 3: Drying

1. Dry instruments completely using disposable towels or air drying.
2. Ensure no moisture remains, as wet instruments can prevent proper sterilization and damage packaging materials.

Step 4: Inspection

3. Check every instrument for cleanliness, corrosion, cracks, or malfunction.
4. Make sure hinged instruments are opened before packing.

Step 5: Wrapping or Packaging

1. Use autoclavable sterilization pouches or wraps approved for dental instruments.
2. Place instruments neatly inside without overcrowding – allow space for steam/heat circulation.
3. Insert a chemical indicator strip (autoclave tape or internal indicator) inside each pack.
4. Seal the pouch properly – ensure the seal is secure and not folded or contaminated.
5. Label each pack clearly with:
 - Date of sterilization
 - Student initials or ID
 - Contents or instrument set name

Step 6: After Sterilization

1. Check that indicator tape has changed color – this confirms exposure to sterilization conditions.
2. Do not use wet or damaged packs. If a pack is torn or wet, it must be reprocessed.
3. Store sterilized packs in a clean, dry, closed cabinet until needed.