

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation	01.07 - Policy
Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	2.20.2025-Revised
Topic: 01.07 - Disposable Patient Care Items	1981 - Author

01.07 - Disposable Patient Care Items

Purpose	To prevent exposure of patients and staff to unsafe patient care items and to comply with applicable regulations.
Audience	All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, outpatient surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students.
Policy	All medical devices labeled “single-use” or “disposable” that have exceeded their expiration date, been opened but not used, or have been used or contaminated must be discarded unless reprocessed by an insured, FDA-registered third party reprocessor approved by the Infection Control and Healthcare Epidemiology (ICHE) Department.
Standards for Third Party Reprocessors	UTMB shall conduct an extensive on-site evaluation of reprocessing procedures by third party reprocessors. • Single use or disposable medical devices may be reprocessed only by manufacturers that are under contract with UTMB to provide reprocessing services. The legal department must review all contracts between UTMB and device reprocessors. • The Director must evaluate prospective reprocessing companies to determine whether procedures used for reprocessing are scientifically valid and will provide products that are safe for reuse.
Monitoring	• Any infections, or adverse events possibly related to the use of a reprocessed device will be documented and reported to ICHE.

References:

1. CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, May 2019.
2. Guidance for industry on Enforcement Priorities for Single-Use Devices Reprocessed by Third Parties and Hospitals, Aug 14, 2000, US Food and Drug Administration, [Federal Register :: Guidance for Industry on Enforcement Priorities for Single-Use Devices Reprocessed by Third Parties and Hospitals.](#)