3.14 Processing Equipment and Instruments Contaminated by an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Agent in the Sterile Processing Department

Purpose

To protect personnel in the Sterile Processing Department (SPD) against contamination by the agent of an EID and to provide guidance on proper techniques to effectively decontaminate items that are contaminated with the EID agent.

Audience

All personnel who work in SPD.

Policy Statement:

I. Transport of contaminated items to SPD
   A. All items will be double bagged for transport to the SPD.
   B. Bags containing items contaminated with an EID agent will be labeled with an All Barrier Precautions (ABP) sticker.
   C. Prior to opening bags with ABP stickers, personnel will don an N-95 mask for SARS and avian influenza or a surgical mask for swine influenza, goggles, gown and gloves.

II. Cleaning and disinfection of contaminated items.
   A. ABP will be followed while contaminated equipment is being cleaned and decontaminated.
   B. Great care should be exercised to avoid actions that create droplets (splashing items in water, spraying items with water or other cleaning substances).
   C. Items should <u>not</u> be cleaned using an ultrasonic device.
   D. After cleaning, items should be placed in an appropriate disinfectant and soaked long enough to kill all microorganisms.
   E. The disinfectant should be thoroughly rinsed from the device to prevent carry over to the next patient.
   F. After cleaning and disinfection of items contaminated with an EID agent, all work surfaces and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and then disinfected with a hospital grade disinfectant.
   G. After decontamination, personnel should remove their gloves, goggles, and gown taking care to avoid contamination of their hands from secretions on the surfaces of their protective

barriers. Hands should be washed with an antimicrobial soap and water or an alcohol hand rub applied to the hands. The mask should be removed taking care to avoid touching the outside of the mask. Hands should again be washed with an antimicrobial soap and water or an alcohol hand rub applied. (See Policy 3.02 Isolation of Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease [EID]) or a Possible EID).