Riverside Physician Network
Quality Management

Subject: Cold Sterilization

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PURPOSE
To provide safe and effective guidelines for cold sterilization of instruments.

POLICY
All non-disposable instruments will be sterilized after each use to prevent spread of infectious material. Instruments that are heat sensitive will be cold sterilized.

PROCEDURE
1. Preparation of Instruments
   a. Clean instruments thoroughly with soap and water to remove all foreign matter and debris.
   b. Open all scissors, clamps, etc. before immersing in solution.
2. Cold sterilization process
   a. Solution to be used will be a high level disinfectant effective against TB, HIV and HBV.
   b. In a well-ventilated room, prepare solution according to manufacturer’s direction. Solution must be at a minimum temperature of 20°C before placing instruments in the bath.
   c. Completely immerse instrument(s) into solution. All surfaces, including internal channels, must be in contact with the solution.
   d. Soak instrument(s) for a minimum of 10 hours or per manufacturer’s recommendations.
   e. Remove instruments from solution using sterile forceps or sterile gloves.
   f. Rinse with sterile water and place on sterile drape or towel to dry.
   g. After instruments are dry, they may be placed in a blister pouch and sealed. Date pouch with date of sterilization and an expiration date of one (1) month.
3. Solution container will be dated with mix date and date of expiration based on manufacturer’s recommendation. Container should be covered to prevent spills and preserve integrity of solution.
4. Solution will be discarded following manufacturer’s recommendations for disposal.
5. At all times, employees will use PPE when working with cold sterilization solutions to prevent splash or contact injury.