

Policy Applies to:

All Mercy staff who handle medical devices and external healthcare practices who utilise sterilising facilities at Mercy

Related Standards:

- AS/NZS 4187:2014. Reprocessing of reusable medical devices in health service organisations
- Infection Prevention and Control Standards NZS 8134.3:2008
- EQuIP Standard 1. 5 Criterion 1.5.2
- EQuIP Standard 3. 2 Criterion 3.2.1

Rationale:

To ensure that there is an effective process to evaluate requests for the reprocessing of single use items in accordance with approved guidelines and standards.

Definitions:

Single Use / Single patient use

A medical device which has been labelled by the manufacturer as sterile 'single use' or 'single patient use' is intended for one use on one patient only.

Reuse or Reprocess

The cleaning, inspection, packaging and sterilisation of a sterile 'single use' or single patient use' medical device (only for inclusions as noted below) for the intention of using on a patient.

This includes:

- re-packaging and resterilising of a sterile 'single use' or 'single patient use' medical device that has been opened but NOT used
- the resterilisation of an unopened sterile 'single use' or 'single patient use' medical device which has expired.

Objectives

- To identify situations where single use items can be safely reused
- To ensure the process for reuse of medical devices is robust and safe

Criteria for Reprocessing Assessment

- Single use medical device that has been opened but not used
- Unopened sterile single use medical device which has expired

Implementation

- All requests for single use medical device reprocessing must be made to the CSSD Coordinator
- Staff making requests are required to provide relevant supporting documentation from the manufacturer which validates the reuse and reprocessing of the single use item
- Single use items that are reprocessed will be reported by the CSSD Coordinator to the Infection Prevention and Control Committee

Evaluation:

- Documented manufacturer's instructions for each approved re-use item
- Tracking Records for monitoring use of each approved item
- Infection Prevention and Control Committee report

Associated Documents:

Internal

- Standard Precautions Policy
- Product Evaluation Policy
- Infection Prevention and Control Committee Terms of Reference

Acknowledgements

- CDHB Reprocessing of Single use Medical Devices