Reprocessing Equipment
Vic Senese, RN, BSN

Spaulding’s Classification of Medical Equipment/Devices and Required Level of Processing/Reprocessing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Level of Processing/Reprocessing</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPTICAL Equipment/Device</td>
<td>Equipment/device that enters sterile tissues, including the vascular system</td>
<td>Cleaning followed by sterilization</td>
<td>Surgical instruments, Implants, Respiratory therapy equipment, Anesthesia equipment, Trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEMIPERVIOUS Equipment/Device</td>
<td>Equipment/device that comes in contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes but does not penetrate them</td>
<td>Cleaning followed by high level sterilization (as a minimum)</td>
<td>Sutures, operatory supplies, Torus systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>NONPERVIOUS Equipment/Device</td>
<td>Equipment/device that has contact only with intact skin and will mucous membranes, or does not directly breach the skin/mucous barrier</td>
<td>Cleaning followed by low level disinfection (in some cases, cleaning alone is acceptable)</td>
<td>EKG machines, Dialysis, Bedpans, urinals, commodes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reprocessing Steps

- Step 1: Precleaning
- Step 2: Leak Testing (flexible Cystoscopes)
- Step 3: Cleaning
- Step 4: Disinfection
- Step 5: Rinsing and Drying
The protein-dissolving enzymes in MetriZyme allow for fast, simple removal of bodily fluids that often cannot be accomplished manually with soaps and other detergents.

Critical: Sterilization

- Steam under pressure
- Ozone
- Ethylene oxide gas
- Hydrogen peroxide gas plasma
- Liquid chemicals

Semi-critical: Disinfection

- Glutaraldehyde
- Ortho-phthalaldehyde
- Peracetic acid
- Hydrogen peroxide
Summary of Glutaraldehyde Health Effects

- the most serious is occupational asthma
- glutaraldehyde acts as a contact allergen, giving rise to contact dermatitis, usually on the hands but occasionally on the face.
- itching of the eyes with increased lacrimation (tearing), and rhinitis (runny nose)

Recommended Exposure Controls

- Minimize exposure to glutaraldehyde during its use as a disinfectant and sterilant.
- Local exhaust ventilation located at the level of vapor discharge is the preferred method of reducing glutaraldehyde vapor concentrations
Personal Protective Equipment

- gloves, safety eyewear, and gowns, lab coats, or aprons should be worn whenever there is the potential for skin or eye contact with glutaraldehyde.
Safe Disposal

Spill Kit

Noncritical devices

• Contact intact skin only

• May be cleaned with low-level disinfection