Standardize an infection program for your patients, your staff, and yourself.

About Henry Schein:

Henry Schein is a FORTUNE® 500 company with over 80 years of experience providing health care practitioners with products and services worldwide. We distribute medical-surgical supplies, equipment and pharmaceutical products to over 120,000 clinicians in the U.S.

We deliver experience, expert advice, strategic resources, and integrated solutions that enable the best quality patient care and enhance efficiency and productivity. Henry Schein offers value-added business and technology solutions that complement the management and sourcing of medical products and supplies.

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Henry Schein’s incontrol Guides are available online at www.henryschein.com/infectioncontrol

*Source: CDC.

Every year, an estimated 2 million patients get a hospital-related infection. One out of three is considered preventable, 90,000 die from their infection.*

Perioperative checklists, proper hand hygiene and barrier precautions to prevent HAIs are among the top 10 patient safety strategies that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality says providers can implement immediately to improve health care quality.

Awareness of infection prevention techniques and tools can help avoid these costly events and help prepare for onsite audits and regulatory changes.*
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides infection control guidelines that include instrument reprocessing recommendations. In addition, medical facility standards and recommended practices are developed by the Association of Perioperative Nurses (AORN) and the Association for the Advancement of Instrumentation (AAMI), Surveyor organizations, such as The Joint Commission, CMS and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) inspect for compliance with national standards.

**INSTRUMENT REPROCESSING**

Below are the six recommended elements for building your instrument reprocessing program:

1. **CLEANING**
   - Follow the cleaning procedures outlined by each instrument manufacturer in the "Instructions for Use" documents, which should also be saved and stored at your facility.
   - Surveyors will observe for compliant cleaning of instruments.
   - Many complex instruments require ultrasonic cleaning.

2. **INSPECTION**
   - Always inspect instruments before and after each cleaning for any residual debris or damage.
   - Never sterilize a "dirty" instrument.

3. **PACKAGING**
   - Instrument packing should be done in a clean and low contamination area, using FDA approved packaging systems.

4. **STERILIZATION**
   - Steam sterilization is the CDC’s recommended process. Other processes include: EO Gas, Chemical Vapor, Dry Heat, and Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide. These products should be FDA approved.
   - Semi-critical devices, that do not require sterilization, may be high-level disinfected using an FDA cleared chemistry such as OPA or Glutaraldehyde.

5. **STORAGE AND DELIVERY**
   - Always handle sterile packages with care to avoid improper packaging.
   - Sterility is event-related and reprocessed devices should be considered sterile unless their packaging has been damaged, opened or compromised.

6. **QUALITY ASSURANCE**
   - Human error is the leading cause of sterilization failure, which includes: cold start, wrong cycle, overloading and improper packaging.
   - Sterility can be assured and verified using three types of indicators:
     a. Physical – Physical Indicators include the sterilizer print out receipts confirming the time, temperature and proper conditions ran during the cycle.
     b. Chemical – Chemical Indicators (CI) should be used both externally and internally with each pack being sterilized.
     c. Biological – Biological Indicators (BI) contain live spores and test the lethality of your sterilizer.

**CLEAN HANDS**

- Before touching a patient
- Before clean/aseptic procedure
- After body fluid exposure risk
- After touching a patient
- After touching patient surroundings

**SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES**

According to the CDC, cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces in health care facilities is fundamental in reducing the potential for health care-associated infections (HAIs).

- Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often.
- Do routine cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect correctly.
- Use products safely – follow all product directions.
- When using disinfectants allow surface to air dry.
- Handle waste properly.
- Wash your hands.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

PPE provides a critical barrier to help protect against infection, both for clinical staff and patients. PPE includes several products that achieve many levels of precautions – Standard, Contact, Droplet, Airborne, and Full Barrier. These include:

- Gowns
- Gloves
- Hair cover
- Face masks
- Face shield/eye goggles
- Fluid resistant covering
- Shoe covers

**HAND HYGIENE**

CDC now recommends:

- An alcohol-based handrub for routine decontaminating hands of caregivers before and after clinical contact with the patient.
- Healthcare facilities should implement a comprehensive, multi-modal hand hygiene education and compliance program in order to overcome obstacles to hand hygiene compliance.

**SURFACE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION**

According to the CDC, cleaning and disinfecting of contact, droplet, airborne, and full barrier equipment is recommended. Disease-controlled precautions (CDC) now recommends:

- Never administer medications from the same syringe to more than one patient, even if the needle is changed.
- Never enter a vial with a used syringe or needle.
- Never use medications packaged as single-dose vials for more than one patient.
- Assign medications packaged as multi-dose vials to a single patient whenever possible.
- Do not use bags or bottles of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for more than one patient.
- Follow proper infection control practices during the preparation and administration of injected medications.
- Wear a surgical mask when placing a catheter or injecting material into the spinal canal or subdural space.

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4. **STERILIZATION**
   - Steam sterilization is the CDC’s recommended process. Other processes include: EO Gas, Chemical Vapor, Dry Heat and Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide. These products should be FDA approved
   - Semi-critical devices, that do not require sterilization, may be level-disinfected using an FDA cleared chemistry such as OPA or Glutaraldehyde
   - Never sterilize a “dirty” instrument

5. **STORAGE AND DELIVERY**
   - Always handle sterile packages with care to avoid damaging or compromising the product. Don’t store products in high traffic areas as this increases the risk of contamination
   - Sterility is event-related and reprocessed devices should be considered sterile unless their packaging has been damaged, opened or compromised

6. **QUALITY ASSURANCE**
   - Human error is the leading cause of sterilization failure, which includes: cold start, wrong cycle, overloading and improper packaging
   - Sterility can be assured and verified using three types of indicators:
     a. Physical – Physical Indicators include the sterilizer print out receipts confirming the time, temperature and proper conditions ran during the cycle
     b. Chemical – Chemical Indicators (CI) should be used both externally and internally with each pack being sterilized. While external indicators (i.e. indicator tape) may be a Class 1 indicator, internal CI’s should be class 4, 5 or 6. The Bowie-Dick test is a chemical indicator that should be ran daily to ensure adequate air removal in pre-vacuum sterilizers
     c. Biological – Biological Indicators (BI) contain live spores and test the lethality of your sterilizer. CDC guidelines state that sterilizers should be monitored with a BI at least weekly

**HAND HYGIENE**

CDC now recommends:
- An alcohol-based hand rub for routine decontaminating hands of caregivers before and after clinical contact with the patient and after contact with inanimate objects (including medical equipment) in the vicinity of the patient
- Healthcare facilities should implement a comprehensive, multi-modal hand hygiene education and compliance program in order to overcome obstacles to hand hygiene compliance

**SURFACE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION**

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- Use products safely – follow all product directions
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- Handle waste properly
- Wash your hands

**SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES**

The CDC and SPIC launched a campaign to promote safe injection practices—the One and Only Campaign. Injection Safety Guidelines include:
- Never administer medications from the same syringe to more than one patient, even if the needle is changed
- Never enter a vial with a used syringe or needle
- Never use medications packaged as single-dose vials for more than one patient
- Assign medications packaged as multi-dose vials to a single patient whenever possible
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SEVEN STEPS TO MAINTAIN OSHA COMPLIANCE

1. Understand state and federal OSHA regulations. Visit your state’s OSHA website
2. Designate a safety officer
3. Work with your supply partners to understand medical device safety and efficacy
4. Stay up-to-date on safety issues, including infection control. Work with your existing partners to share information
5. Investigate any issues when necessary
6. Train staff on OSHA standards. Henry Schein has an OSHA training available to customers
7. Engage staff to ensure compliance and that safety is an ongoing focus

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