Environmental Reprocessing Areas Checklist

PIDAC Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee
Infection Prevention and Control

This checklist is an excerpt from Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment/Devices. It outlines physical space requirements that should be in place to support reprocessing best practices. For more information, please visit www.publichealthontario.ca or email ipac@oahpp.ca.

Physical space

There must be a centralized area (MDRC) for reprocessing medical equipment/devices. In smaller settings, such as clinics or offices in the community, this refers to any segregated area where reprocessing of equipment/devices takes place, away from clients/patients/residents and clean areas.

Reprocessing performed outside the medical device reprocessing centre must be kept to a minimum and must be approved by the reprocessing committee or those accountable for safe reprocessing practices and must conform to the requirements for reprocessing space.

The environment where cleaning/decontamination is performed must must[1,2,14]:

- have adequate space for the cleaning process and storage of necessary equipment and supplies
- be distinctly separate from areas where clean/disinfected/sterile equipment/devices are handled or stored
- have easy access to hand hygiene facilities
- have surfaces that can be easily cleaned and disinfected
- have slip-proof flooring that can withstand wet mopping and hospital-grade cleaning and disinfecting products
- have environmental controls in accordance with requirements for reprocessing areas (e.g., temperature, ventilation, humidity)
- have restricted access from other areas in the setting and ensure one-way movement by staff.

Decontamination work areas shall be physically separated from clean and other work areas by walls or partitions to control traffic flow and to contain contaminants generated during the stages of cleaning. Walls or partitions should be cleaned regularly and be constructed of materials that can withstand cleaning and disinfection[14].

Decontamination sinks[14]:

- shall be designed and arranged to facilitate soaking, washing and rinsing of equipment/devices with minimal movement or delay between steps
- should be adjacent to waterproof counter tops and a backsplash
- shall not have an overflow
- should be at a height that allows workers to use them without bending or straining
- should be large enough to accommodate trays or baskets of instruments
- should be deep enough to allow complete immersion of larger devices and instruments so that aerosols are not generated during cleaning
- should be equipped with water ports for the flushing of instruments with lumens, if appropriate.

Hand hygiene facilities should be readily accessible and located in all personnel support areas and at all entrances to, and exits from, the decontamination area. Hand hygiene facilities should include:

- hand washing sinks with hands-free controls, soap dispensers and paper towels; and/or
- alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR).

➢ Refer to Appendix C: Recommendations for Physical Space for Reprocessing, for details regarding reprocessing area space requirements.

References

The following references follow the order of original document. For full reference list please refer to Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment/Devices.

1. CSA Group. CAN/CSA-Z314.3-09: Effective sterilization in health care facilities by the steam process. Toronto, ON: CSA Group; 2009.

2. CSA Group. CAN/CSA-Z314.0-13: Medical device reprocessing - general requirements. Toronto, ON: CSA Group; 2013.

14. CSA Group. CAN/CSA Z314.8-08: Decontamination of reusable medical devices. Toronto, ON: CSA Group; 2008.

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