

Inspection Process - Sterile Service Technicians

Decontamination / Cleaning

Inspect that the decontamination process has been successful. Medical devices are not showing organic residue and or unidentified debris / fluid.

Remove ID tape and adhesive residue.

View for water marks and tray list print on surface.

Tray List

- Check the contents are accurate and comply with tray list
- Dimensions or size of instruments to comply with tray list.
- Groups of forceps are the same size. (Not a mix match).

Damage and function

All devices function correctly and appropriate parts are lubricated as required

Inspect for damage to the surface of the instrument for fractures, corrosion, notches fretting and insulation is in good condition.

- Check the instrument is fit for purpose. Not showing any signs of excess wear & tear and corrosion.
- Check no single use instruments have been loaded in tray as reusable
- Check chrome plated instruments surface is not breached or flaking
- Check that the instrument is performing the function for which it is designed

Scissors, Osteotomes, Chisels Rongeurs

- Cutting action is smooth and if stiff lubricate joint with a small amount of surgical instrument lubrication
- No undue slackness at the screw and joint screws are in place - If correctly set the blades of the scissors should come to rest approximately half way along its length.
- No notches in the blades
- No signs of joint fractures
- Tips are aligned

Tissue, Dissecting, Artery Forceps. Needle Holders, Arterial clamps

- Grasping action is smooth with ratchets engaging and unlocking using comfortable pressure
- Ratchets close on first rack grasping the box joint and tap the bows on the flat of your hand, they should not spring open and stay engaged.
- Joint to move smoothly and if stiff lubricate joint with a small amount of the instrument lubricant
- No undue slackness at the joint and all screws are in place
- No misalignment of jaws and damage
- Jaw serrations in place, meet correctly and are aligned from tip to base
- No excessive wear and tear
- No signs of jaw or joint fractures
- Sets of forceps & needle holders to be the same size as defined in tray list

Retractors

- Retracting action is smooth and does not grind or slip
- For self-retaining retractors; open fully and apply pressure to ensure they do not slip shut
- No undue slackness at the screw and all screws are in place
- No sign of misalignment
- Spring ratchets engage fully and remain closed
- All teeth and points are present
- No sharp edges

Probes

- Blunt, smooth tips
- No obvious shaft and tip damage

Suction Tubes

- Ensure lumens are completely clear – hold towards light source to verify or use medical air
- Tips intact and not cross threaded, sharp or damaged
- Shafts are not crimped or bent
- Suction ports are clear
- Do not cross match suckers

Diathermy or Bi-polar Forceps

- Check all insulation is free from cracks, splits, tears and bare sections. Pay close attention to connections.
- Check any connections to ensure undamaged.
- Continuity testing of electro-surgical instruments is desirable.

Endoscopes Rigid

- Check vision is clear and not blurred or showing black spots
- Check Light functions
- Check scope is fit for purpose
- Check no missing parts

Containers / Trays

- Inspect the decontamination process has been successful and no organic material is present.
- Check the tray or container is not damaged
- Check for sharp edges
- Check the lid fits if present and locking mechanism functions correctly.
- Check the barcode for the lid and container match
- Check barcodes and data on containers are correct
- Check container seals and filters are intact and in place

Wraps

- Check wraps are fit for purposes and not supplied damaged.
- Check wraps have not been damaged during wrapping process.