

## SOP 9 Appropriate Use of Single-Use Items

*It is very difficult and sometimes impossible to decontaminate some instruments and devices. Therefore in such circumstances, disposable devices must be used, e.g. disposable suction tips. These single use instruments are marked with the universal single use symbol which indicates that the item is intended for one use or for use on a single patient during a single procedure.*

*The responsibility for classifying a device as single use lies with the manufacturer.*



**Figure 2: Single Use Item Symbol**

9.1 Dental instruments and dental/medical devices which are licensed as 'single –use' items must not be reused. If in doubt check with the manufacturer of the product. Technical sheets should be available.

9.2 Single use items include the following dental items, which must be disposed of after a single use in the dental clinic. (NB: this is not an exhaustive list);

- Local anaesthetic needles and cartridges
- Scalpel blades
- Saliva ejectors
- Single use 3/1 tips
- Steel burs
- Diamond burs where single use indicated
- Matrix bands
- Endodontic files, reamers, spiral fillers and barbed broaches etc.
- Impression trays (disposable)
- Prophylaxis brushes and cups
- Disposable examination kits
- Orthodontic brackets, archwires and auxiliaries, molar bands, temporary anchorage devices.