



PATIENT SAFETY TOOL BOX TALKS ©

SAFE CARE & SUPPORT

SERVICE USER EQUIPMENT



v1.1

Important Points to Remember !!!

Ask yourself

- What equipment do we use in our area, e.g. sling hoists, glucometers nebulisers, commodes, drip stands etc...
- Is the "item" a medical device or not? and why is that important?
- is it an invasive medical device? Why is that important?
- Is it single use, single service user use or reusable?
- Where does it fit in on the equipment risk classification table ?(see below)
- What does the manufacturer say about the device?
- What if the manufacturer does not say anything?-what should you do?



Prior to Cleaning / Decontamination

- Check if item is single use, single service user use or reusable. Single use items must never be decontaminated and reused under any circumstances
- Ensure all electrical items are plugged out prior to cleaning
- Check manufacturer's instructions with regard to appropriate cleaning agents to use to preserve integrity of equipment
- Observe items for wear and tear / rust / torn fabric etc. and replace as appropriate.

Remember!

Cleaning, with neutral detergent and water, must always be carried out prior to disinfection and sterilisation.




Always!!

- Remember to clean all surfaces – remember the underside of commodes, legs and hinges of dressing trolleys, underside of treatment couches etc.
- Document who cleaned the equipment and when it was cleaned. For larger items such as drip stands / hoists etc. it may be prudent to develop a 'label' to be attached to the item to record cleaning date
- Audit equipment on a regular basis to ensure decontamination is carried out to a high standard, and equipment is functioning properly with no damage / wear and tear
- High level disinfection and sterilisation is a specific skill and should be carried out only by trained staff, e.g. in a CSSD unit. Reusable invasive medical devices must be decontaminated in accordance with the HSE Code of Practice for Decontamination of RIMD, 2007.

Classification of Service User Equipment

Re-Useable Invasive Medical Devices (RIMD)

An invasive medical device can be defined as a device which, in whole or in part, penetrates inside the body, either through a body orifice or through the surface of the body (Medical Device Directive (93/42/EEC)).

Symbol on Packaging	Equipment Usage	Meaning
	Single Use	Cannot not be re-used or re-processed under any circumstance! Examples: needles, syringes, urinary catheters etc.
Single Service User Use	Single Service User Use	May be used repeatedly on one user – must be cleaned between use as per manufacturers instructions. Example, hoist sling. Replace if damaged or as per manufacturers instructions
Reusable	Reusable	Can be shared and reused between several service users, must be decontaminated between use, example, BP cuff, wheelchairs

(ref. IMB Safety Notice: SN2010(14))

Spaulding Classification System

In 1968 Earle Spaulding devised a classification system for infection risk associated with the decontamination of RIMD. He believed instruments and equipment should be cleaned and reprocessed according to the level of risk associated with their intended use.

Risk	Application	Recommendation
Critical	Items in close contact with a break in the skin or mucous membrane or introduced into a sterile body area, e.g. theatre surgical equipment	Requires Sterilisation
Semi-critical	Items in close contact with intact skin, mucous membranes or body fluids, particularly after use on infected service users or prior to use on immunocompromised service users, e.g. endoscopes	Requires high level disinfection (sterilisation preferred where practical)
Non-critical	Items in contact with healthy skin or mucous membranes or not in contact with service user, e.g. blood pressure cuff	Can be processed by cleaning (and low level disinfection where necessary).

Group Exercise

Select a piece of equipment from each classification group (single service user use, reusable) used in your area and look at policy around what should it be cleaned with and how frequently etc - glucometers / hoists / slings / commodes etc. Select a 'single use only' piece of equipment – is it currently being reused under any circumstances.

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