

Handling Soiled Case Cart for Transport to Medical Device Reprocessing Department (MDRD), MSJ OR

Site Applicability

Mount Saint Joseph Hospital OR and MDRD

Practice Level

Basic: Within the scope of practice of the perioperative nurse

Need to Know

Handling and disposal of sharps and tissue(s) are nursing responsibility.

Sharp and delicate instruments should be set aside for individual handling and cleaning to avoid damage and injury.

Any damaged instruments must be set aside, tagged "damaged" for repair or replacement so that MDRD can follow up.

Procedure

On completion of the surgery:

1. Organize and carefully sort instruments for reprocessing.
2. Remove all sharps (e.g. blade on handle, needle on driver, injection needle on syringe). Place all sharps in the disposable needle counter container.
3. Larger sharps (e.g. glass bottles from drug or contrast media) and used needle counter container must be placed in sharps container (yellow bin) in MDRD decontamination area.
4. Separate sharp/delicate instruments and cautery cords, protecting tips of fine/sharps instruments.
5. Unlock used instruments to expose jaws and box locks. Separate and soak grossly soiled instruments with water (not saline) in a separate bin as needed.
6. Keep unused instruments in their own container.
7. Keep all MIS instruments back in their designated rack and container.
8. Leave power tools, gamma neoprobes and ophthalmology hand pieces, cryo probes, etc. attached to their cords. They are cleaned in MDRD before detaching from cords.
9. **Do not soak** telescope or cord; put back scope and cord in its designated container (with lid on). All cords should be coiled and left safely on the cart, not soaking or hanging down the side. Soaking scope and cords will damage the instruments.
10. Place heavy instrument in the bottom of the pan.

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11. Separate and dispose any 3rd party reprocessing/recycling items e.g. MIS stapler, roticulators, saw, stapler in designated Stryker/Ascent bin located in MDRD decontamination area.
12. Minor and/or excess tissue(s) are regulated waste and must be placed in a red bag. Discard in designated red biohazard bin located in MDRD decontamination area.
13. MDRD does not have the facility to discard excess irrigation, blood and body fluids. Any excess fluid/irrigation, blood and body fluids must be collected/suction in to a suction bottle. Ensure the ports are secured and put in a yellow biohazard bag kick bucket in OR. Housekeeping will discard in to a designated yellow bin located in MDRD decontamination area.
14. Dispose grossly soiled items (i.e. sponges soaked in blood, dressing, etc.) in yellow biohazard bags. Housekeeping will discard in to a designated yellow biohazard bin located in MDRD decontamination area
15. Collect and place used/soiled laryngoscope blade, LMA and re-usable oxygen mask on top of the case cart.
16. Pack up and cover the soiled case cart with a drape (provided on each case cart) during transport to MDRD decontamination area.

Related Documents

1. [B-00-12-10136](#) – Duties of Scrub & Circulating Nurse
2. [B-00-13-10042](#) – Surgical Specimen Management in the Operating Room

References

3. ORNAC. (2019). The ORNAC Standards, Guidelines, and Position Statements for Perioperative Registered Nursing Practice (14th ed.).
4. Rothrock, J.C. (2015). Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery (15th ed.). Care and handling of instruments. pp. 87-88, 205-206.

Definitions

Sharps are metallic, pointed or cutting objects. Examples of sharps include, but not limited to scalpel blades, hypodermic needles, suture needles and cautery tips.

Persons/Groups Consulted:

Educator, MSJ MDRD

Clinical Nurse Leader, MSJ OR

Developed by:

Nurse Educator, MSJ OR and DT Procedure Rooms

First Released Date:	March 2012
Posted Date:	06-OCT-2020
Last Revised:	06-OCT-2020
Last Reviewed:	
Approved By:	PHC
	Professional Practice Standards Committee
Owners:	PHC
	MSJ OR