N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.1

§ 8:27-5.1 Cleaning of reusable instruments

(a) All reusable instruments shall either be washed by hand or processed mechanically:

1. Manual instrument washing shall consist of the following steps:
   i. An initial cold water rinse to remove visible soil;
   ii. An enzyme pre-soak shall be used prior to cleaning;
   iii. Warm water and the detergent appropriate for the particular item being cleaned shall be used;
   iv. The item shall be thoroughly rinsed; and
   v. Instruments shall be carefully inspected for cleanliness and damage and then dried before packaging.
2. Mechanical instrument washing shall include:
   i. An initial cold water rinse to remove visible soil;
   ii. An enzyme pre-soak shall be used prior to cleaning;
   iii. The instrument shall be placed directly into the ultrasonic unit for a 10 minute cycle or as recommended by the manufacturer;
   iv. The water and cleaning solution as recommended by the manufacturer shall be changed when visibly soiled or at a minimum, daily;
   v. The chamber of the ultrasonic unit or cleaner shall be disinfected after use with 70 percent isopropyl alcohol; and
   vi. Each time the chamber is filled with water, it shall be degassed to remove any air bubbles caused by the turbulence of the tank filling. This degassing process shall run at a five to 10 minutes cycle based upon manufacturer's recommendations.

N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.2

§ 8:27-5.2 Packaging

(a) All instruments to be sterilized shall be packaged individually in peel-packs.

1. All peel-packs shall contain a chemical indicator or internal temperature indicator.
2. Tape sealed or self-sealed peel packs shall be dated with an expiration date not to exceed 90 days or as specified in writing by the manufacturer.

N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.3

§ 8:27-5.3 Sterilization procedures

(a) All instruments that are processed by steam sterilization must first be cleaned. The manufacturer's instructions of the autoclave regarding water purity requirements, filling, draining, and general maintenance shall be followed. A copy of the instructions shall be maintained on site.

(b) Peel-packs shall be positioned standing on edge, paper to plastic. Loading racks or baskets specifically designed for these types of packages, or other means of holding them on edge and properly spaced, shall be used.

(c) The manufacturer's written instructions of the autoclave for the cycle parameters, time, temperature and pressure shall be followed.

(d) Policies and procedures shall be established when the cycle does not include a drying phase. Drying cycle shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(e) Wrapped items being cooled after removal from the autoclave shall remain untouched in the loading tray during the cooling period.

(f) All hinged instruments shall be processed in an open position.

N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.4

§ 8:27-5.4 Biological and chemical monitoring

(a) All steam sterilizers shall be biologically tested on a monthly basis and following repair or breakdown. The biological indicator test for steam sterilization shall consist of bacillus sterothermophilus spores. These tests shall be verified through an independent laboratory.

(b) Biological monitoring of the steam sterilization cycle shall be conducted in a fully loaded chamber or as recommended by the sterilization manufacturer. The biological monitor shall be placed in the center of the load towards the front of the chamber.

(c) The following actions shall be taken if a biological indicator tests positive.

1. The independent laboratory shall notify the body art establishment within 24 hours of a positive test result;
2. The body art operator shall notify the local health authority of the positive test and inform him or her of the follow-up steps;
3. Instruments processed in that sterilizer shall be considered non-sterile and shall be reprocessed before use;
4. The sterilizer in question shall be immediately re-challenged with a biological indicator; and
5. The sterilizer shall not be used until a satisfactory test result (no growth) is reported by the independent laboratory.

(d) All biological test records shall be retained by the operator for a period of three years and made available upon request.

(e) Sterilizers with recording charts or printouts shall include a chemical integrator in the first working load each day a sterilization cycle is run.

1. All charts/printouts shall be reviewed and initialed by the sterilizer operator at the completion of each cycle and initialed to verify that all cycle parameters were met.

(f) Sterilizers without recording charts/printouts shall include a chemical integrator in each load run.

1. If the chemical integrator fails to meet the cycle parameters, all of the load contents shall be reprocessed.

N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.5

§ 8:27-5.5 High-level disinfection

(a) All instruments that are processed by high level disinfection shall first be cleaned.

(b) The manufacturer's instructions for use shall be followed.

(c) The efficacy of chemicals used for high-level disinfection shall be verified by the use of a test specific to the chemical if a valid and reliable test method is available and feasible for use. The test shall be used daily.

(d) Personal protective equipment shall be worn to protect employees' skin and eyes from splashes and contact. Spills shall be cleaned immediately.

(e) Instruments that are removed from high level disinfectants shall be rinsed thoroughly, dried, and if not used immediately, are to be packaged in a zip-lock plastic bag.

(f) All body art establishments that use glutaraldehyde-based high level disinfectants shall monitor the environment to maintain exposure limits as recommended by the 2001 edition of "Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents in the Workroom Environment," publication number 0101, by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented. A copy of this document may be obtained from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 1330 Kemper Meadow Drive, Suite 600, Cincinnati, Ohio 45240.

N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.6

§ 8:27-5.6 Storage

(a) All instruments used for body art shall be stored to ensure the integrity of the packaging materials.

(b) When assembling instruments just prior to performing the procedure, the practitioner shall wear gloves and use an aseptic technique.

N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.7

§ 8:27-5.7 Single use items

Single use items shall not be used on more than one client for any reason.

N.J.A.C. 8:27-5.8

§ 8:27-5.8 Decontamination of environmental surfaces

(a) Blood spills on environmental surfaces shall be cleaned as specified in the Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Rule 29 CFR part 1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens.

(b) Aluminum foil or plastic covers shall be used to protect items and surfaces (for example, light handles) that may become contaminated by blood or saliva during use and that are difficult or impossible to clean and disinfect. Between clients, the coverings shall be removed, discarded, and replaced with clean material.

(c) A low-level disinfectant shall be used on general environmental surfaces.

1. Procedure surfaces shall be disinfected after each use.
2. Horizontal surfaces shall be disinfected daily.
3. Restrooms shall be disinfected daily.
4. General work surfaces in the equipment clean room shall be disinfected daily.
5. All storage cabinets shall be cleaned and disinfected on a frequency established by the operator.

(d) If decontamination and sterilization activities are performed in the same room:

1. Decontamination activities shall not take place simultaneously with packaging and/or sterilization activities; and
2. At the completion of decontamination activities, all countertops and work surfaces shall be disinfected with an approved disinfectant, gloves removed and hands washed before beginning and prep/packaging or sterilization activities.