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OUR TEAMS KICKING GOALS

Standards to Clinical Practice

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Background: Staff access in a 21 theatre University Hospital Clinical to the requirements for reprocessing reusable medical devices (RMDs). Only so much information could be provided in the comment section of tray lists and these where not available in the decontamination area. The complexity of RMDs that look alike such as cardiac cables challenged the way they where processed (at times inadvertently damaging cables)

Objective: Provide staff with access to reprocessing instructions in all areas including decontamination area - included information on disassembly or type of washer disinfector cycle and whether manufacturer recommends manual or mechanical cleaning including the loading of washer disinfectors

Procedure / Methods: We reviewed RMDs IFU, reprocessing equipment IFU and standards into a system for clinical use Developed a data base that included all the parameters for reprocessing RMD by surgical specialities including photographs

Results / Discussion: Staff now constantly use this data base in the decontamination area and are discussing with us the need to have other complex RMDs in the data base. The outcome for Cardiac Cath lab has been a resounding success.

Key Learning Outcomes: Importance of working with RMD manufacturers (specific example is the time and temperature for thermal disinfection in washer disinfectors and the different learning styles of staff.

Conclusion: Improved compliance with reprocessing RMD to manufacturer instructions, AS/NZS 4187:2014, reprocessing equipment instructions for use and safer outcomes for patients.