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THE
COLLEGE
OF
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OF
ONTARIO

Sterilization and Reprocessing

Sterilization and Reprocessing requirements (as per PIDAC's Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in All Health Care Settings, May 2013) are as follows:

- At this time, sterilization and reprocessing staff are not required to have CSA certification (which can only be achieved by passing the CSA Group exam) but it is accepted by the program.
- Sterilization and reprocessing staff are required to have a certificate from a recognized course. This could include a College program or another organization with an approved curriculum.
- The CSA Group now offers a course entitled "**Medical Device Reprocessing in Community Health Care Settings**". This is an online course that would be acceptable, as long as the staff has also received training from the manufacturer of the equipment that is being sterilized/reprocessed or in the case of surgical tools, the equipment used to sterilize the tools i.e. the autoclave
- **Clarification regarding ongoing education requirements:** All sterilization and reprocessing staff, regardless of the certificate they have, is required to maintain their knowledge by possessing a current certificate within 5 years
- Certificates from the CSA Group and the Medical Device Reprocessing Association of Ontario – MDRAO (previously known as Central Service Association of Ontario – CSAO) expire after 5 years
- For sterilization and reprocessing staff that have a certificate from a Community College, they would be required to provide evidence of continuing education from a recognized course, for example, by passing the CSA Group exam or by receiving a certificate from the MDRAO's refresher course

List of acceptable courses:

1) CSA Group:

[Medical Device Reprocessing in Community Healthcare Settings](#) – this is an online course, and it must be accompanied with training from the manufacturer of the equipment used in the OHP

2) Medical Device Reprocessing Association of Ontario (MDRAO)

- a) [Medical Device Reprocessing Techniques Course](#) – this course involves 30-40 hours of required home study in addition to the classroom instruction and a final exam
- b) [Refresher course](#) – this course is for those who are required to have continuing education if their current certificate is out of date, past 5 years. This is not a classroom course. Once the course material is mailed out the staff member has 3 months to set the date of their exam. The exam is written in front of a invigilator

3) Community Colleges

There are a number of Community Colleges that offer sterilization and reprocessing courses. The list of Colleges below does not include all the Colleges offering these courses, but are the Certificates that are commonly seen in the OHP program.

- [Centennial College – Medical Device Reprocessing](#)
- [Algonquin College – Medical Device Reprocessing](#)
- [Fanshawe College – Medical Device Reprocessing](#)
- [Seneca College – Medical Devices Reprocessing](#)
- [Mohawk College – Medical Device Reprocessing](#)
- [Durham College – Sterile Processing](#)

4) Manufacturer Courses

The only manufacturer course that is accepted without any additional training is the following course from Olympus University (specific only to Endoscopy OHPs using Olympus Equipment):

- [Certified Endoscope Reprocessing Trainer Course for Medical Endoscopes \(Medical CERT\)](#)

Please note: The above listed courses are only suggestions. It is the responsibility of the Medical Director for the Out-of-Hospital Premises or the Quality Advisor for the Independent Health Facilities to ensure that certificates for sterilization and/or reprocessing are obtained from reputable sources.

The following Public Health Ontario Reprocessing Resource Update outlines additional supplementary resources for sterilization and reprocessing.

Reprocessing Resource Update

Are your members looking for support related to reprocessing medical equipment?

If yes, please share this message! Public Health Ontario (PHO) has several resources that cover the underlying principles of reprocessing, applicable to all community-based clinics and dental practices performing minor procedures.

Here's what we offer:

Website. Our website contains helpful information and resources for:

- IPAC practices specifically targeted at [IPAC for Clinical Office Practice](#) settings
- Investigation and [prevention of IPAC lapses](#) in community settings
- [Reprocessing guidance in any health care setting](#)

Online learning. Our [Reprocessing in Community Health Care Settings](#) has nine modules, each one requiring 15-30 minutes. It provides an overview of best practice principles related to reprocessing:

1. Introduction to Reprocessing
2. Personal Protective Equipment for Reprocessing
3. Pre-cleaning, Cleaning and Post-cleaning
4. Disinfection
5. Packaging for Sterilization
6. Loading a Sterilizer
7. Steam Sterilization
8. Unloading a Sterilizer
9. Transportation and Storage

Checklists.

- Inspections and audits: The [Reprocessing of Medical Equipment/Devices in Clinical Office Practice](#), [Endoscopy in Clinical Office Practice](#), [IPAC core elements in dental practice settings](#), and [Reprocessing in dental practice settings](#)
- Self-assessment: The [Checklist for Reprocessing](#) for office staff to evaluate their cleaning, disinfection and sterilizations practices
- [Purchasing a Table-top Steam Sterilizer](#): outlines key factors to consider when making decisions about purchasing this equipment.

Best practice guidance.

- The [Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical](#)

[Equipment/Devices In All Health Care Settings](#) document describes essential elements and methods in the safe handling, monitoring and auditing, transportation and biological decontamination of contaminated medical equipment/devices.

- The [Infection Prevention for Control in Clinical Office Practice](#) addresses general infection prevention and control practices including reprocessing.

Tools and Resources. Several tools and resources are available to assist you in performing reprocessing activities:

- [High-Level Disinfection Log](#) and [Sterilization Monitoring Log for Table-top Steam Sterilizers](#) forms can be used to record process parameters and will assist with tracking devices in the event of a recall.
- [The Reprocessing Steps](#) poster outlines key components in each of the cleaning, disinfection, sterilization and storage of medical instruments/devices. Visit the websites referenced above for additional tools and resources.

[Recommendations for Education, Training and Certification for Reprocessing](#) offers additional guidance about important considerations for health care staff and facilities performing reprocessing activities.

Reprocessing Workshops. We've designed a workshop to build on the foundations covered in our online modules (pre-requisite). The availability of this workshop will vary region-to-region, and specific communication will be sent to you inviting your participation if one is held in your area. You can also check the [PHO Events webpage](#) to see where workshops are being held across the province. Workshop dates and locations will be determined in the coming weeks. The workshops cover:

- Appropriate medical equipment/device/instrument reprocessing of in Clinical Office Practice.
- Outcomes of improper reprocessing practices (lapse investigations and risk assessments).
- Appropriate education and training in reprocessing practices requirements.
- Available PHO reprocessing resources and tools.

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