

Request For Advice on Decontamination of Medical Devices



Date of Enquiry	Requesting Person	Contact Details
21/05/12	SCN Margaret Kerr	SCN Orthopaedic Clinic
Name of device	Plaster room instruments	
Use (including type of patient and procedure)	<p>Scissors: Used to cut bandages, back slabs, padding under slabs, casts. Kept in nurse's pocket.</p> <p>Plaster saw: Used for all plaster removal, down to the padding underneath the plaster. The saw never touches the skin.</p> <p>Shears: For removing plasters.</p> <p>Spreaders: Metal instrument to hold plaster open whilst padding being cut.</p>	
Reason for new device	Not new but no agreed decontamination policy across GG&C.	
Manufacturer	Lumenis	
Query	SCN would like an agreed decontamination method for these instruments.	
Details of manufacturer's recommended decontamination (items marked 'single use' must be discarded after use)	<p>No guidance for scissors/shears/spreaders – according to local policy.</p> <p>For plaster saw - detergent (no autoclaving or high water pressure water jets).</p>	
Measures taken by staff to address the issues above	Literature search revealed most areas use detergent wipes followed by alcohol	
Recommendations of the Decontamination sub-group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the instruments before and after each with detergent wipes. • Dry instruments with a disposable paper towel. • Store in a clean dry container protected from dust and contamination • If contaminated with blood/ body fluids wipe with 10,000 PPM Chlorine based detergent, rinse and dry. • If plaster saw contaminated with blood/body fluids and cannot be adequately decontaminated it may need to be discarded. 	
Date Completed	28/11/12	