

ABOUT REPROCESSING

THINGS TO REMEMBER



REPROCESSING

a process carried out on a used device in order to allow its safe reuse
generally involves cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilization

SPAULDING CLASSIFICATION

- critical items
 - direct contact with sterile body sites or vascular systems
 - Examples: surgical instruments, implants, and devices used during invasive procedures
 - mandatory **sterilization**
- semi-critical items
 - come into contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes but do not penetrate sterile tissues
 - Examples: endoscopes, respiratory therapy equipment, and anaesthesia equipment
 - **high level disinfection**
- non-critical items
 - contact with intact skin and do not touch mucous membranes or penetrate the body
 - Examples: blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes and bedpans
 - **low-level disinfection**

STEPS IN REPROCESSING

- no soaking in disinfectants prior to cleaning
- cleaning best with immersion method, removing all dirt and debris
- complete drying
- check for functionality, discard damaged items
- disinfect or sterilize according to spaulding classification
- use indicators (mechanical, chemical and biological to monitor successful reprocessing)

PROPER LABELLING

- labelling should contain the following information
 - name of the product
 - name of wrapper
 - expiry date and/or processing date.
 - If it is appropriate, add the word "sterile" and the load number



PROPER STORAGE

- always according to product requirements
- general rules:
 - closed and dry cupboards
 - always handle with care and discard damaged or unsealed packages
 - moderate temperature best not exceeding 25°
 - no windowsills or under sinks!

