

# Infection Control-Led High Level Disinfection Audits Improved Consistency of Practice

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## Introduction/Problem

Across BIDMC (on campus and offsites), 22 non-OR departments reprocess equipment using high level disinfection (HLD) by three different methods:

- Trophon® EPR,
- Automated endoscope reprocessors (AER)
- Manual disinfection using a ortho-Phthalaldehyde (OPA) disinfectant

Standardized walk rounds by Infection Control Practitioners (ICPs) discovered discrepancies and educational gaps related to multiple steps in the HLD process:

- Pre-cleaning
- Reprocessing
- Transportation
- Storage

In preparation for the Joint Commission (TJC) survey, Infection Control/Hospital Epidemiology (IC/HE) led 3 weeks of intensive audits and education at all sites performing HLD of equipment

## Aim/Goal

- To educate and audit inpatient and ambulatory service sites on the processes related to HLD
- To improve compliance with Instructions for Use (IFUs) for equipment in all locations conducting pre-cleaning and HLD to ensure patient safety, prevent healthcare-acquired infections, and comply with national accreditation standards

## The Team

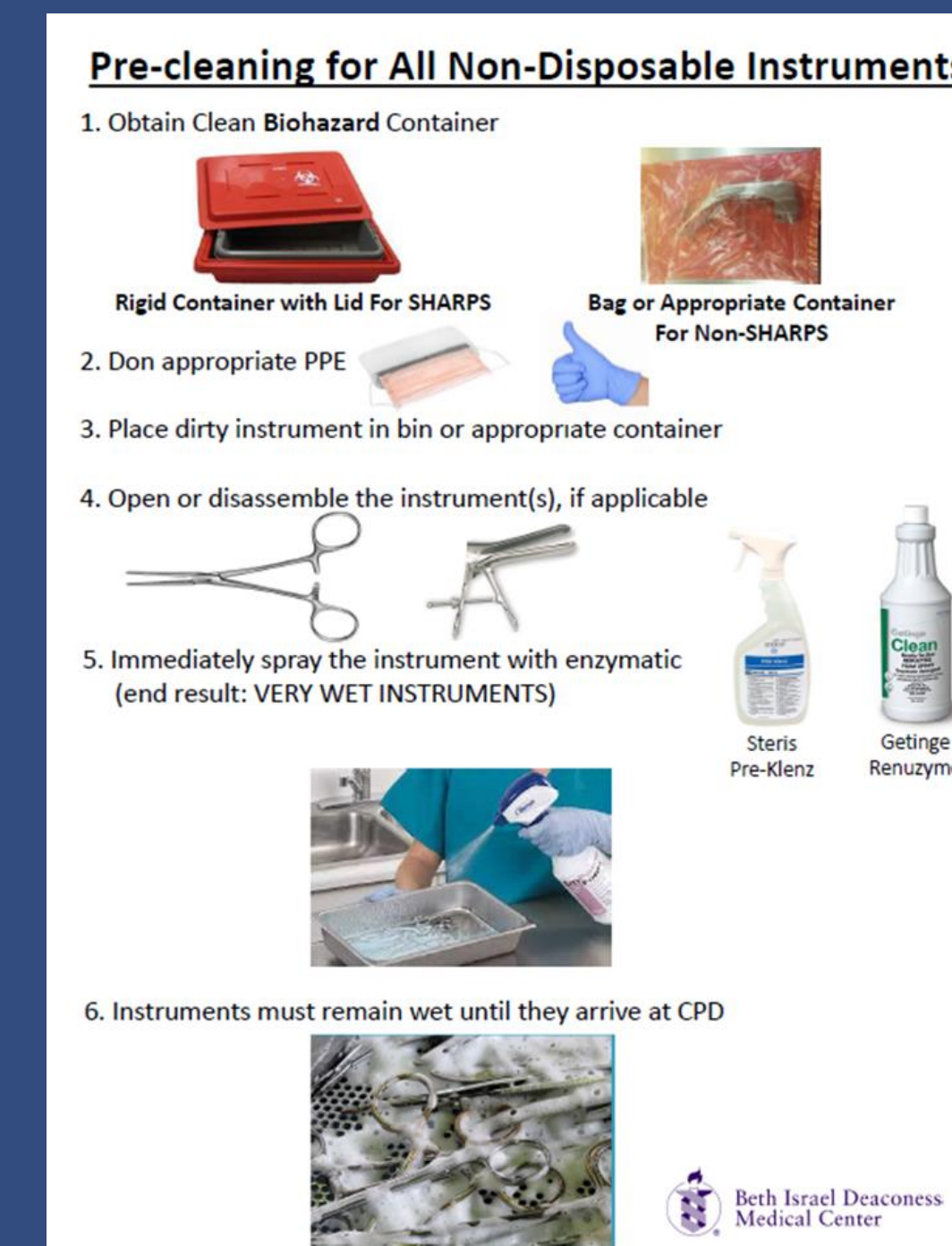
- Infection Control/ Hospital Epidemiology
- Ambulatory Operations
- Staff at all sites performing HLD

*With thanks to the HLD Steering Committee*

## The Interventions

1. Step-by-step reprocessing walkthroughs by ICPs several times per week with real-time feedback including:
  - a. Step-by-step review of reprocessing
  - b. Review of equipment transport and storage
  - c. Personal protective equipment and hand hygiene observations
2. Development of new or updated tools
  - a. "Joint Commission FAQs" and corresponding quiz
  - b. Revision of all IC Guidelines
  - c. Checklists to facilitate staff training
  - d. signage to serve as visual cues during pre-cleaning and reprocessing

## Results/Progress to Date



### Pre-cleaning



**Centralized station creation:** Hand sanitizer, PPE, a pre-cleaning enzymatic solution, and a transport bin

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