

REPROCESSING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DENTAL HAND INSTRUMENTS

STERILIZATION DRY HEAT

SCOPE

These instructions are applicable to the processing of Nova Instruments dental hand instruments including hinged instruments (forceps, scissors, tweezers), reusable syringes, implant tools, matrix retainers, mirrors, impression trays & retractors. They are applicable before first use and each reuse. Nova Instruments dental hand instruments are supplied mechanically clean but are not sterile. They should therefore be sterilized before first use.

WARNINGS

Used instruments should be considered as contaminated and appropriate handling precautions should be taken during reprocessing. Gloves, eye protection and a mask should be worn. Other measures may be required if there are specific infection or cross-contamination risks from the patient.

Particular attention is required when cleaning instruments with hinges, blind holes, lumens or long cannulae.

LIMITATIONS OF PROCESSING

Reprocessing will have little effect on Nova Instruments dental hand instruments. The end of life is determined by wear and damage in use and the instruments should be inspected for defects during the preliminary cleaning process.

CONTAINMENT AT THE POINT OF USE

Unless there are specific infection or cross-contamination risks, there are no special requirements for containment. The instruments can be transported wet or dry and should be protected from damage to the cutting edges. If transported wet there is an increased chance of staining or corrosion. Prolonged storage in disinfectant solutions may result in corrosion and should be avoided.

Delay in reprocessing must be kept to a minimum to avoid contaminants drying thereby making cleaning more difficult. If the delay is excessive instruments must be manually cleaned before auto cleaning (see manual cleaning method below).

PREPARATION FOR CLEANING

There are no special requirements unless infection controls require the use of a disinfectant, in which case a disinfectant agent validated for processing of dental hand instruments must be used and the disinfectant manufacturers' instructions must be followed.

AUTO CLEANING

Auto cleaning is the only recommended method and should use only validated washer disinfectors and appropriate agents validated for use on dental instruments with the selected machine. Follow the washer disinfectant and the cleaning agent manufacturers' instructions. The water temperature of **90°C** with a holding time of **1 minute**.

After cleaning inspect the instrument, with the aid of magnification if necessary, to ensure that all contamination has been removed. Repeat the cleaning process if necessary, cleaning by hand and re-inspecting before repeating the auto-cleaning phase.

MANUAL CLEANING

If hand cleaning is the only available option, the instruments should be cleaned in a sink reserved for the purpose. Rinse the instrument under running cold water and, keeping the instrument immersed, brush thoroughly away from the body using a cleaning or cleaning/disinfecting agent validated for use on dental instruments. Follow the agent manufacturers' instructions. Care should be taken to avoid spreading contaminants by spraying or splashing during the brushing process. Use wire brushes with caution as brass particles may result in galvanic corrosion and steel particles may cause discolouration of stainless steel. Particular attention is required when cleaning instruments with hinges, blind holes, lumens or long cannulae. The use of a water jet, appropriate brush or stilette may be required.

DRYING AND MAINTENANCE

Dry the instruments using paper towelling or dry heat not exceeding 140°C. If required apply a small amount of a recommended lubricant to the moving parts of hinged instruments.

INSPECTION

Inspect the instruments, with the aid of magnification if necessary, and discard any that are damaged or corroded.

PACKAGING FOR STERILIZATION

Pack the instruments in dedicated instrument trays or pouches suitable for dry heat sterilization or wrap in aluminium foil. Hinged instruments should be packed in the open position.

STERILIZATION

Sterilize the instruments for a holding time of not less than sixty minutes at a temperature of between 180 and 185°C. The holding time is the minimum time for which the minimum temperature is sustained.

The oven manufacturer's instructions must be followed. In particular care must be taken not to exceed the maximum recommended load for the oven.

STORAGE

The instruments should be stored in the sterilization container until required.

NOTE: It remains the responsibility of the reprocessor to ensure that the reprocessing as actually performed using the equipment, materials and personnel in the reprocessing facility achieve the required results. This may require validation and monitoring of the process. Any deviation from these instructions should be properly evaluated for effectiveness and potential adverse results.

STERILIZATION USING STEAM

REPROCESSING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DENTAL HAND INSTRUMENTS

SCOPE

These instructions are applicable to the processing of Nova Instruments dental hand instruments including hinged instruments (forceps, scissors, tweezers), reusable syringes, implant tools, matrix retainers, mirrors, impression trays & retractors. They are applicable before first use and each reuse. Nova Instruments dental hand instruments are supplied mechanically clean but are not sterile. They should therefore be sterilized before first use.

WARNINGS

Used instruments should be considered as contaminated and appropriate handling precautions should be taken during reprocessing. Gloves, eye protection and a mask should be worn. Other measures may be required if there are specific infection or cross-contamination risks from the patient.

Particular attention is required when cleaning instruments with hinges, blind holes, lumens or long cannulae.

LIMITATIONS OF PROCESSING

Reprocessing will have little effect on Nova Instruments dental hand instruments. The end of life is determined by wear and damage in use and the instruments should be inspected for defects during the preliminary cleaning process.

CONTAINMENT AT THE POINT OF USE

Unless there are specific infection or cross-contamination risks, there are no special requirements for containment. The instruments can be transported wet or dry and should be protected from damage to the cutting edges. If transported wet there is an increased chance of staining or corrosion. Prolonged storage in disinfectant solutions may result in corrosion and should be avoided.

Delay in reprocessing must be kept to a minimum to avoid contaminants drying thereby making cleaning more difficult. If the delay is excessive instruments must be manually cleaned before auto cleaning (see manual cleaning method detailed below).

PREPARATION FOR CLEANING

There are no special requirements unless infection controls require the use of a disinfectant, in which case a disinfectant agent validated for processing of dental hand instruments must be used and the disinfectant manufacturers' instructions must be followed.

AUTO CLEANING

Auto cleaning is the only recommended method and should use only validated washer disinfectors and appropriate agents validated for use on dental instruments with the selected machine. Follow the washer disinfectant and the cleaning agent manufacturers' instructions. The water temperature of 90°C with a holding time of 1 minute.

After cleaning inspect the instruments, with the aid of magnification if necessary, to ensure that all contamination has been removed. Repeat the cleaning process if necessary, cleaning by hand and re-inspecting before repeating the auto-cleaning phase.

MANUAL CLEANING

If hand cleaning is the only available option, the instruments should be cleaned in a sink reserved for the purpose. Rinse the instrument under running cold water and, keeping the instrument immersed, brush thoroughly away from the body using a cleaning or cleaning/disinfecting agent validated for use on dental instruments. Follow the agent manufacturers' instructions. Care should be taken to avoid spreading contaminants by spraying or splashing during the brushing process. Use wire brushes with caution as brass particles may result in galvanic corrosion and steel particles may cause discolouration of stainless steel. Particular attention is required when cleaning instruments with hinges, blind holes, lumens or long cannulae. The use of a water jet, appropriate brush or stilette may be required.

DRYING AND MAINTENANCE

Dry the instruments using paper towelling or dry heat not exceeding 140°C. If required apply a small amount of a recommended lubricant to the moving parts of hinged instruments.

INSPECTION

Inspect the instruments, with the aid of magnification if necessary, and discard any damaged or corroded instruments.

PACKAGING FOR STERILIZATION

If using a **vacuum autoclave** pack the instruments in dedicated instrument trays or pouches validated for sterilization. Hinged instruments should be packed in the open position.

If using a **non-vacuum autoclave** the instruments must not be packed or wrapped but placed on open trays to obviate the need for unnecessary handling. Hinged instruments should be packed in the open position.

NOTE: National legislation may require that instruments are wrapped in pouches for processing in either type of autoclave.

STERILIZATION

Autoclave the instruments for a holding time not less than three minutes at a temperature of between 134 and 137°C. Other validated time/temperature regimes may be used. The holding time is the minimum time for which the minimum temperature is sustained.

The autoclave should bear the CE mark and the manufacturer's instructions must be followed. In particular care must be taken not to exceed the maximum recommended load for the autoclave.

STORAGE

The instruments should be stored in the sterilization container (instrument tray or pouch) until required. Containers or pouches must be dry before opening to avoid recontamination of the contents with water. Storage should be in dry, clean conditions and at ambient temperature

NOTE: It remains the responsibility of the reprocessor to ensure that the reprocessing as actually performed using the equipment, materials and personnel in the reprocessing facility achieve the required results. This may require validation and monitoring of the process. Any deviation from these instructions should be properly evaluated for effectiveness and potential adverse results.