


**Cleaning and Preparation of Items**

All staff who are responsible for the decontamination and sterilisation of equipment and instruments follow best practice and comply with standard precautions.

- Wear disposable gloves
- Wear a mask and apron to prevent aerosol contamination
- All used instruments and equipment are placed in the designated dirty area.
- Ensure that visible contamination is rinsed off under running water.
- Place used instruments in Clinidet solution as soon as possible after use to prevent contaminated material drying on the instruments.
- Open any hinged instruments for cleaning.
- Use specific brushes underwater to prevent aerosol contamination.
- Rinse instruments under tepid running water
- Do a visual check to see that the item is clean
- Dry with lint free cloth on the clean bench

**Packaging**

- Instruments placed in pouches
- Ensure that all hinges are open
- Extend tape 2.5 cm around each end of pack
- Seal with a heat sealer or indicator tape
- All surgical instrument packs are dated, time and cycle number on pack prior to sterilisation
- Place in steriliser in single layer
- When cycle complete, place packs on rack on clean bench for cooling
- Printouts photocopied and filed for cross reference, signed by person unloading the steriliser

Title: Decontamination and Sterilisation of Re-usable Instruments	Section 2 Indicator 16
	Date: 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
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Review Date:	Signed
Review Date	Signed
Review Date	Signed