

| Document Code:      | DPOTMH-I-20-P03                     |  |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Document Type:      | Policy                              |  |
| Page Number:        | 1 of 4                              |  |
| Department/Section: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |  |
| Document Title:     | TRANSPORTING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS   |  |

# **PURPOSE:**

To ensure the proper transportation of contaminated instruments from the collection area to the reprocessing area.

### LEVEL:

Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit

# **DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

**Collector-** collects contaminated surgical instruments from point-of-use and transports to the decontamination area for cleaning and ensures that data sheets are included for checking and monitoring of instruments.

Monitoring sheet- a tool of instruments included in a surgical set and additional single instruments used in the surgery.

### POLICY:

- All instruments collected from a doctor/secretary shall be recorded to the endorsement logbook for easy monitoring and make them sign when requesting after sterilization.
- 2. Schedule of collection for Surgical Complex:
  - There is no specific time for collection of used instruments in the Surgical Complex.
  - 2.2. Collection only happens when a call is received or SRU is notified by a nurse or a scrub technician once the surgical procedure(s) is/are done.
  - 2.3. If there is no notification received, the collector shall check the room where used instruments are placed.



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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Document Type:      | Policy                              |  |
| Page Number:        | 2 of 4                              |  |
| Department/Section: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |  |
| Document Title:     | TRANSPORTING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS   |  |

- 3. Contaminated instruments shall be contained during transport from the point of use to the decontamination area.
  - 3.1. Contaminated instruments should be handled as little as possible at the point of use and should be immediately contained and transported to the decontamination area. Immediate containment and transport reduces the risk of surgical personnel's contact with the contaminated instruments.
  - 3.2. Containment should be achieved through the use of some type of container that has been identified to prevent surgical personnel and other HCWs from contact with the contaminated instruments and prevention of airborne microorganisms during transport. The type of container to be used depends on the items to be transported. Types of recommended containers include closed carts, bins with lids, rigid sterilization container systems, and impermeable bags that can be used alone or in combination.
- 4. All SRU Technicians/ collector involved in the transport and reprocessing of devices contaminated with high-risk tissue shall be familiar with the healthcare facility policies and should be adequately trained.
  - 4.1. SRU Technician/ Collector involved in the transport of instruments or surfaces exposed to high-risk tissues should wear single-use PPE, including gloves, mask, and eyewear, such as goggles.
- After sterilization, sterile items transported outside the immediate perioperative areas must be in a closed cart or containment bin
- 6. Sterile items should be protected from excessive handling during movement and transport to minimize potential for sterile package contamination or compromise.
- 7. Items should be transported to the storage location as soon as possible after cooling or on a regular schedule.



| Document Code:      | DPOTMH-I-20-P03                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |
| Document Type:      | Policy                              |
| Page Number:        | 3 of 4                              |
| Department/Section: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |
| Document Title:     | TRANSPORTING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS   |

# **DOCUMENTATION:**

**New Policy** 

# **DISSEMINATION:**

- 1. Hospital Policies
- 2. Hospital Communicator

### REFERENCE:

- The Sterile Supply Departments Quick Guide Manual. (n.d.). Infection Control
  Directorate Ministry of Health-Kuwait. Retrieved May 29, 2022, from
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- 2. World Health Organization. (2016). *Decontamination and Reprocessing of Medical Devices for Health-care Facilities*. Retrieved May 29, 2022, from <a href="https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250232/9789241549851-eng.pdf">https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250232/9789241549851-eng.pdf</a>
- AST Education and Professional Standards Committee. (2009, April 16). Standards
  of Practice for the Decontamination of Surgical Instruments. AST. Retrieved March 30,
  2022, from
  - https://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main Site/Content/About Us/Standard Decontemination %20Surgical Instruments .pdf



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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Document Type:      | Policy                              |  |
| Page Number:        | 4 of 4                              |  |
| Department/Section: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |  |
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# APPROVAL:

|              | Name/Title                                     | Signature  | Date       |
|--------------|--|--|------------|
|              | LEA MAY PANUGALING                             | Chip   | 7/7/22     |
| Prepared by: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit Technician | \7\\\7\\I  | 1-2        |
| rrepared by. | MELANIE MOJENO-SAN FRANCISCO, RN               | 3186   | 7/7/22     |
|              | Surgical Suites Staff Nurse                    | after  | 1111-0     |
|              | PAUL WILSON T. JALLA, RN                       | - alla   | 7/7/22     |
|              | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit Head       | <b>65</b>  | 111122     |
|              | MARIA AGNES A. SARIEGO, RN, MN                 | ahane.   | 7/2/2      |
|              | Surgical Complex Manager                       | - Add Middle   | 1/1100     |
| Verified:    | RICHARD S. MONTILIJAO, RN                      | THE STATE OF THE S | דאלך       |
| vermeu.      | OIC Policy Development                         |  | 1/1/20     |
|              | SHALAINE SOCORO L. DURAN, RN                   | Sudal  | 7/1/2      |
|              | Nurse Manager for Operations                   | mour   | 7/7/20     |
|              | HANNAH KHAY S. TREYES, RN, MN                  | Shell  | molmhon    |
|              | Chief Nurse                                    | 00   | Allallast  |
| Reviewed:    | DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua          | 2  | 07/07/2022 |
|              | Quality Assurance Supervisor                   |  | 11         |
|              | MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN                 | 1.   |            |
|              | Nursing Service Division Head                  | Mun  | 7/7/22     |
| Recommending | FREDERIC IVAN L. TING, MD                      | S.   | 7/8/2      |
| Approval:    | OIC- Total Quality Division                    | P  | 1/01       |
|              | MA. ANTONIA GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA           | 4  |            |
|              | Vice President- Chief Medical Officer          | man  | 7-18.77    |
| Approved:    | GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN                      | #  | f.1        |
|              | President and CEO                              |  | 8/3//22    |



| DPOTMH-I-20-P03-S01                 |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Standard Operating Procedure        |  |
| 1 of 2                              |  |
| Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |  |
| TRANSPORTING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS   |  |
|                                     |  |

# **PURPOSE:**

To safely carry contaminated instruments for decontamination and reprocessing.

### SCOPE:

Applies to all Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit (SRU) staff of Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital

# PERSON RESPONSIBLE:

SRU Technician, Collector

### PROCEDURE:

- 1. Wear proper set of personal protective equipment (PPE) before the collection.
- 2. Ensure that the instruments are properly contained.
- Take the contaminated instruments and monitoring sheet from the point-of-use to the decontamination area.
- 4. Hand in the used instruments together with the monitoring sheet to the technician assigned in the decontamination area.
- Receive the instruments and monitoring sheet through the receiving window, or through the door if the instrument to be received cannot fit.
- After sterilization, items to be transported outside the immediate perioperative areas must be placed in a closed cart or containment bin.
- 7. Sterile items should be protected from excessive handling during movement and transport to minimize potential for sterile package contamination or compromise.



| Document Code:      | DPOTMH-I-20-P03-S01                 |  |
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| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Document Type:      | Standard Operating Procedure        |  |
| Page Number:        | 2 of 2                              |  |
| Department/Section: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |  |
| Document Title:     | TRANSPORTING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS   |  |

# APPROVAL:

|              | Name/Title                                     | Signature  | Date       |
|--------------|--|--|------------|
|              | LEA MAY PANUGALING                             | Caton  | 7/7/22     |
| D 11         | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit Technician | X- W   | 1/1/24     |
| Prepared by: | MELANIE MOJENO-SAN FRANCISCO, RN               | 100  | 7/7/22     |
|              | Surgical Suites Staff Nurse                    | vigen  | 1111-0     |
| +:           | PAUL WILSON T. JALLA, RN                       | = ella   | 7/7/22     |
|              | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit Head       |  | 111/22     |
|              | MARIA AGNES A. SARIEGO, RN, MN                 | Dha al   | 7/7/2      |
|              | Surgical Complex Manager                       | Horny  | 11 1180    |
| 37 '6' 1     | RICHARD S. MONTILIJAO, RN                      | AD.  | הארוך      |
| Verified:    | OIC Policy Development                         |  | .,,,       |
|              | SHALAINE SOCORO L. DURAN, RN                   | Sudw   | 7/7/20     |
|              | Nurse Manager for Operations                   | Many   | 11/10      |
|              | HANNAH KHAY S. TREYES, RN, MN                  | 1 yang   | 07/07/201  |
|              | Chief Nurse                                    | 00   | 0.10/1 - 7 |
| Reviewed:    | DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua          | 2  | 07/07/2002 |
|              | Quality Assurance Supervisor                   |  |            |
|              | MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN                 | 64   | -11        |
|              | Nursing Service Division Head                  | Myum   | 7/7/22     |
| Recommending | FREDERIC IVAN L. TING, MD                      | 13   | 7/8/2      |
| Approval:    | OIC- Total Quality Division                    | F  | - 6        |
| ••           | MA. ANTONIA GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA           | marx   | 7-18.7     |
|              | Vice President- Chief Medical Officer          | 10   | 1-18       |
| Approved:    | GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN                      | The state of the s | dalla      |
| * *          | President and CEO                              | 100  | (181) 00   |

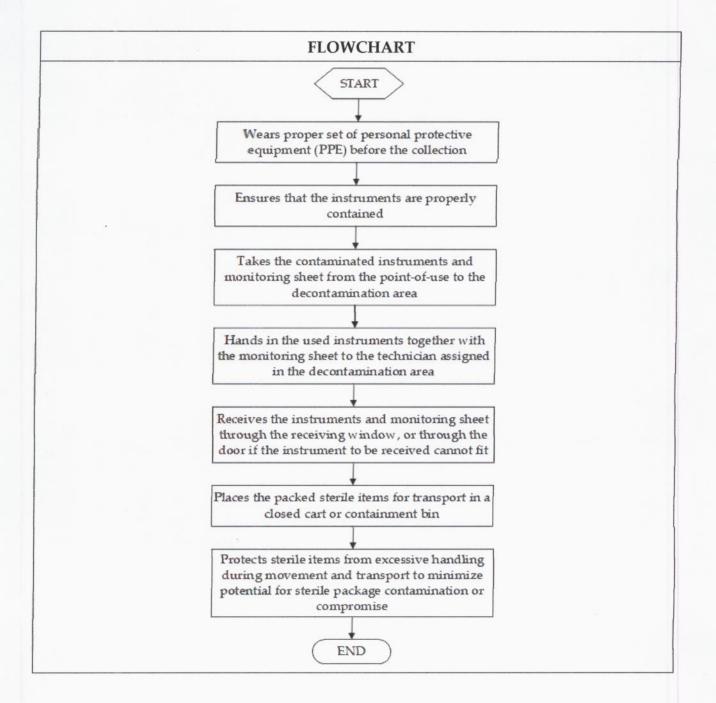


| Document Code:      | DPOTMH-I-20-P03-WI01                |  |
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| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Document Type:      | Work Instruction                    |  |
| Page Number:        | 1 of 2                              |  |
| Department/Section: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |  |
| Document Title:     | TRANSPORTING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS   |  |

| KEY TASKS   | PERSON RESPONSIBLE        |  |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Wears proper set of personal protective equipment (PPE) before the collection  |                           |  |  |
| 2. Ensures that the instruments are properly contained  | SRU Technician/ Collector |  |  |
| <ol> <li>Takes the contaminated instruments and<br/>monitoring sheet from the point-of-use to the<br/>decontamination area</li> </ol>                 |                           |  |  |
| 4. Hands in the used instruments together with the monitoring sheet to the technician assigned in the decontamination area                            |                           |  |  |
| 5. Receives the instruments and monitoring sheet through the receiving window, or through the door if the instrument to be received cannot fit        | SRU Technician            |  |  |
| 6. Places the packed sterile items for transport in a closed cart or containment bin  | SKO Technician            |  |  |
| 7. Protects sterile items from excessive handling during movement and transport to minimize potential for sterile package contamination or compromise |                           |  |  |



| Document Title:     | TRANSPORTING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS   |  |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Department/Section: | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit |  |
| Page Number:        | 1 of 2                              |  |
| Document Type:      | Flowchart                           |  |
| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Document Code:      | DPOTMH-I-20-P03-FC01                |  |





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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Effective Date:     | 07-15-2022                          |  |
| Document Type:      | Flowchart                           |  |
| Page Number:        | 2 of 2                              |  |
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# APPROVAL:

|              | Name/Title                                     | Signature  | Date       |
|--------------|--|--|------------|
| Prepared by: | LEA MAY PANUGALING                             | C 1 10 2   | 7/10/00    |
|              | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit Technician | ANTONIA .  | 7/7/22     |
|              | MELANIE MOJENO-SAN FRANCISCO, RN               | 10110  | 7/1/22     |
|              | Surgical Suites Staff Nurse                    | With   | 11112      |
| Verified:    | PAUL WILSON T. JALLA, RN                       |  | , ,        |
|              | Sterilization and Reprocessing Unit Head       | Sen-   | 7/7/22     |
|              | MARIA AGNES A. SARIEGO, RN, MN                 | A n  | 11         |
|              | Surgical Complex Manager                       | -somy  | 7/7/22     |
|              | RICHARD S. MONTILIJAO, RN                      | Still.   | 7/7/20     |
|              | OIC Policy Development                         |  | 111166     |
|              | SHALAINE SOCORO L. DURAN, RN                   | 0./  | 71-1       |
|              | Nurse Manager for Operations                   | Suda   | 7/7/20     |
|              | HANNAH KHAY S. TREYES, RN, MN                  | Utal   | molorbo    |
|              | Chief Nurse                                    | 17   | 011011200  |
| Reviewed:    | DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua          |  | 07/09/2022 |
|              | Quality Assurance Supervisor                   |  | 01/01/22   |
|              | MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN                 | 1.   |            |
|              | Nursing Service Division Head                  | frynn  | 7/7/22     |
| Recommending | FREDERIC IVAN L. TING, MD                      | 18   | 7/8/2      |
| Approval:    | OIC- Total Quality Division                    | P  | 01-0       |
|              | MA. ANTONIA GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA           |  |            |
|              | Vice President- Chief Medical Officer          | mary   | 7-18.77    |
| Approved:    | GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN                      | #  | 11         |
|              | President and CEO                              | The state of the s | 8/3//22    |