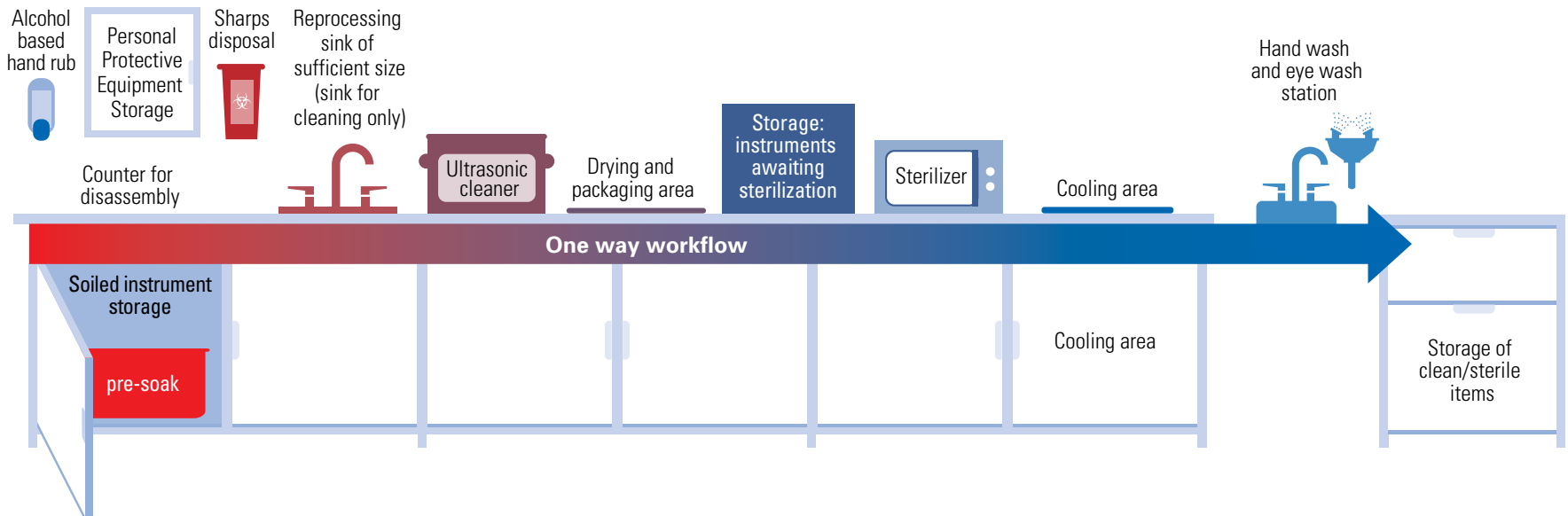


Dental instrument reprocessing quick reference

Elements of a designated reprocessing area



Elements of reprocessing of dental instruments

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must always be available

Masks, gowns and eye protection are necessary when splashes or sprays may occur

Pre-cleaning	Transport	Disassembly	Cleaning	Drying	Sterilization
Remove gross soil immediately to prevent drying	Transport container must be cleanable, closed, covered and puncture proof Dispose of sharps promptly (ideally at chairside)	Disassemble as per Manufacturer's Instructions for Use (MIFU) Inspect for damage Sort instruments into sets Soak/pre-treat	Completely submerge equipment Manual friction with detergent Brush and flush lumens Mechanical cleaning if available (e.g. ultrasonic cleaner or hydrim) Rinse	Air dry or use lint-free towel Compressed filtered air to dry lumens Lubricate, reassemble as required	Items must not touch in package, open hinged items Wrap/label with date, sterilizer used, load number, and initials, and contents if not visible Ensure quality indicators are documented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical • chemical • biological

Quality control

Sterilization process

- ✓ Physical indicators – monitor with each load
 - Time, temperature, pressure
- ✓ Chemical indicators – monitor on each package
 - Internal (Class 4 minimum)
 - External (Class 1)
 - For dynamic air removal type sterilizer, perform a Class 2 (Bowie-Dick) indicator once daily
- ✓ Biological indicators – monitor once daily
 - Monitor once daily
 - Use in every load containing implants
 - To use instruments prior to having BI results, a Class 5/6 Chemical indicator within a process challenge device should be in each load

Ultrasonic cleaners

- ✓ Test for efficacy once weekly

High level disinfectant

- ✓ Test for efficacy each day it is used

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Single-use medical/dental instruments and equipment are usually labelled by the manufacturer with a symbol:



Any equipment labelled as single-use can **never** be reprocessed or re-used. Examples: syringes, needles, some suction tips. etc.

Storage of dental instruments

Never store in reprocessing area, on the floor, under/adjacent sinks, or with unclean items

Store single-use disposable semi-critical items

- Unwrapped or wrapped
- In clean, dry and covered area
- Handled only with forceps or clean hands

Store reprocessed sterile or critical items

- Stored in sterile package until time of use
- In a clean, dry secure area that prevents contamination
- Packaged items may be handled with clean hands
- Store in designated area adjacent to, but not accessible from reprocessing area
- Ensure items which have been reprocessed can be differentiated from items that have not (i.e. colour coding)

Dental instrument reprocessing quick reference

Key principles for reprocessing dental instruments

It is essential that each dental practice maintain an overall inventory of dental instruments used in each facility.

The inventory must:

- ✓ State the recommended reprocessing for each instrument
- ✓ Reflect the manufacturer's instructions for use for each item
- ✓ Be shared with all staff involved in reprocessing

Policies need to include:

Cleaning and maintenance

- environmental cleaning process and schedule for reprocessing area
- scheduled maintenance for cleaning and sterilization equipment

Reprocessing

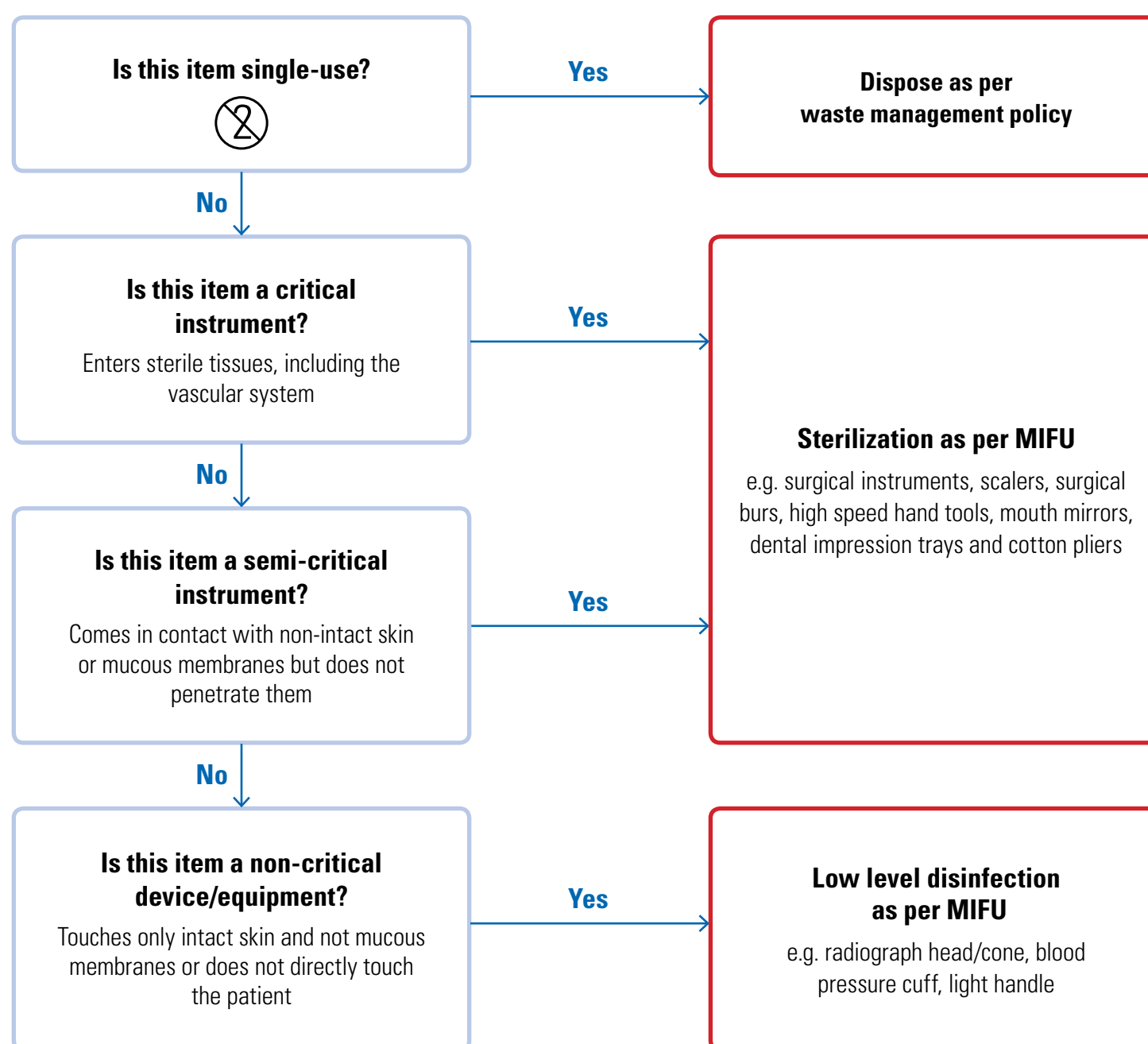
- all aspects of reprocessing
- process for recall of instruments if there is a reprocessing failure
- quality monitoring and documentation
- items are reprocessed as per MIFUs or are single use
- single use items are not reprocessed

Occupational Health and Safety

- response to blood/body fluid spills
- prevention/management of sharps injuries
- use of personal protective equipment
- all chemicals are approved by PHC/CSA/Health Canada



Reprocessing decision tree



MIFU = Manufacturer's Instructions for Use



If there is a discrepancy between the reprocessing level recommended by the manufacturer and the intended use of the instrument by Spaulding's criteria, the higher level of disinfection/sterilization must be used.

Helpful resources

IPAC Core Competencies Course – <http://bit.ly/2h9tCsr>

IPAC Core elements in dental practice Settings Checklist – <http://bit.ly/2t4f0oz>

Reprocessing in Community Health Care Settings Course – <http://bit.ly/2nt7Hjd>

Reprocessing in dental practice settings – <http://bit.ly/2os1B4J>

Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment/Devices in all Health Care Settings – <https://bit.ly/2uoBz7Z> (includes Spaulding's Criteria)

