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Wales

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# Decontamination Policy

## Policy Statement

Eliminating preventable healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) requires the proactive involvement of every member of staff across all healthcare settings. The commitments set out in the *Decontamination of Medical Devices: A Development Plan for Healthcare Organisations (Development Plan)*<sup>1</sup> builds on the progress made by healthcare organisations to date, and embeds the zero tolerance approach to preventable HCAIs that every patient rightfully expects.

This policy provides clear information to staff at all levels of the organisation on what is required for the safe and effective decontamination of reusable medical and surgical devices. Public Health Wales staff use a variety of medical devices to deliver a wide range of services to the public. It is essential that all staff involved in the use of non-invasive, reusable care equipment and surgical devices are aware of current standards and evidence based guidance relating to effective decontamination. Adoption of correct decontamination procedures supports the elimination of all preventable healthcare associated infections.

This document reflects standards and recommendations contained in the Welsh Government Decontamination of Medical Devices: A Development Plan for Healthcare Organisations <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/39931>

This policy aligns with Public Health Wales Strategic Priority 4 and Strategic objective: To work with NHS Wales to use patient safety as a driver for higher quality health care.

## Policy Commitment

Decontamination is the combination of processes, including cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilisation. Standards and guidance relating to decontamination have been published over many years, with requirements of healthcare organisations becoming more stringent as a result of greater knowledge, experience and technological advancements. In conforming to the principles of *Prudent Health and Care*, healthcare organisations and individuals involved in providing services are obliged to prevent cross infection when using medical devices in patient care.

Public Health Wales commits to the adoption and practice of decontamination recommendations specified within related guidance documents.

This Policy states the commitment of the organisation to ensure that all decontamination processes of medical and surgical devices undertaken within

and on behalf of Public Health Wales are in accordance with current recommended standards and guidance.

### **Supporting Procedures and Written Control Documents**

Guidance applicable to this policy is:

- Decontamination of Medical Devices: A development plan for healthcare organisations 2016  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/39931>
- Welsh Health Technical Memorandum 01-06 Decontamination of flexible endoscopes  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/Documents/254/WHTM%2001-06%20Part%20E%202017.pdf>
- Welsh Health Technical Memorandum 01-01 Parts A-E Decontamination of medical Devices within acute services.  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/Documents/254/WHTM%2001-01%20PART%20B.pdf>

### **Other related documents are:**

- Decontamination procedure document:  
<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/54697>
- Medical devices and equipment management policy  
<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/54697>
- Infection Prevention and Control policy  
<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/54697>
- National Infection Prevention and Control Manual  
<http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>

<b>Scope</b>	
This policy applies to all staff who are responsible for and/ or involved with any elements of the decontamination process for reusable medical devices. It is also applicable to staff who are involved with decontamination of healthcare equipment prior to inspection, service, maintenance or repair.	
<b>Equality and Health Impact Assessment</b>	An Equality Health Impact Assessment has been completed.
<b>Approved by</b>	Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee
<b>Approval Date</b>	16 April 2019
<b>Review Date</b>	16 April 2022
<b>Date of Publication:</b>	June 2019
<b>Group with authority to approve supporting procedures</b>	Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee
<b>Accountable Executive Director/Director</b>	Director of Quality, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals.
<b>Author</b>	Lead Nurse for Infection Prevention and Control

**Disclaimer**

**If the review date of this document has passed please ensure that the version you are using is the most up to date either by contacting the document author or [Corporate Governance](#).**

<b>Summary of reviews/amendments</b>				
<b>Version number</b>	<b>Date of Review</b>	<b>Date of Approval</b>	<b>Date published</b>	<b>Summary of Amendments</b>
V2	Jan 2015	31 Jan 2013	31 Jan 2013	The previous policy has been separated into two distinct Policy and Procedure documents in order to align with Public Health Wales policy requirements.

				Links to on-line documents have been embedded.
V3	Dec 2018			Document re-formatted further to align with Public Health Wales policy requirements.