EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Management of Soiled, Clean, and Sterile Supplies

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Approved by:

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Vice Chancellor Health Services

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Director, Prospective Health

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Chairman, Infection Control Committee

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Infection Control Nurse
I. Policy: Management of Soiled, Clean, and Sterile Supplies

II. Purpose:
To provide guidelines for separation of clean, soiled and sterile equipment, medical devices, and other medical supplies. Clean and sterile supplies and equipment must be separated from soiled equipment/articles during all phases of handling.

III. Procedure:
A. Clean and Sterile Supplies
1. External shipping cartons of reusable and disposable items should be removed as soon as possible upon arrival to the clinic.
2. Clean and sterile supplies will be stored in designated storage areas.
3. Clean and sterile patient care supplies must be stored at least 18 inches from the ceiling if sprinkled and 24 inches if not sprinkled, and at least two inches from outside walls.
4. Clean and sterile patient care supplies are not to be stored under sinks, near exposed water or sewer pipes or in any location where they can become wet.
5. Traffic should be restricted in storage areas.
6. Closed or covered cabinets are recommended for the storage of seldom-used sterile supplies.
7. Outside shipping containers and corrugated cartons will not be used as containers in storage containers in storage areas.
8. Supplies should be rotated with the first ones in being the first ones used.
9. Supplies should be arranged in a manner that prevents crushing, bending, compressing or puncturing the package.
10. Shelving or carts used for storage of clean and sterile supplies are to be maintained in a clean and dry condition.
11. Sterile supplies should be transported in a covered or enclosed cart with solid bottom shelf.
12. Carts and reusable covers for carts or other transport vehicles should be cleaned, disinfected and thoroughly dried after each use.

B. Soiled equipment/articles
1. All equipment or supplies soiled with organic material such as feces, sputum, blood, etc. must be rinsed, in a non-hand washing sink, at the point of use.
2. Any patient care equipment/devices that are reprocessed by outside sources such as Vidant Central Services will be cleaned of all organic matter prior to packaging for transport. This includes soaking in an enzymatic detergent, rinsing, and drying.
3. Items will be placed in a receptacle large enough to accommodate the type and size of items. The receptacle will be labeled with a biohazard label and transported to the decontamination area.
4. All sharps that are to be reprocessed shall be placed in puncture resistant, leak proof containers, and labeled with a biohazard label.