POLICY:
All reusable equipment (surgical instruments, suction regulators, stretchers, etc.) will be decontaminated prior to reuse or sterile supply processing.

EQUIPMENT:
- Scrub brush
- Gown
- Wiping cloth
- Lined latex gloves
- Mask
- Goggles/faceshield
- Instrument cleaner
- Hair cover
- Disinfectant

PROCEDURES:

I. PREPARATION

A. The staff member will don appropriate personal protective equipment (see Infection Control Manual, Policy #B-14.31).

B. Prepare disinfectant and/or cleaning solutions as per manufacturer's instructions.

C. Decontamination will occur at the point of use (i.e., decontaminating a stretcher in the emergency room).

II. IMMERSIBLE EQUIPMENT

A. If the item is immersible, it will be completely immersed and all surfaces of the item scrubbed. Keep the item immersed to prevent splatter of contaminates.

B. Following decontamination, surgical instruments are placed in a container labeled *Contaminated Instruments* to await further processing.

III. NON-IMMERSIBLE EQUIPMENT

A. If the item is reusable and not immersible, the entire surface of the item will be wiped with disinfectant solution. The surface of the item must remain wet for 10 minutes for full disinfectant action. After drying, the item will be returned for further use.

B. If an item needs repair, it must be decontaminated prior to being shipped, or it must be labeled with a biohazard sign as to which parts remain contaminated.
IV. REUSABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Decontaminate all reusable medical equipment such as stretchers, wheelchairs, and suction regulators before the next patient’s use if they may have become contaminated by blood or body fluids or by droplet splatter.

V. STERILIZATION PROCEDURES

Refer to Nursing Service Manual