



Case Study

Multiple Acute Care Facilities Within a Healthcare System:
Instrument Processing



The compliance with national standards for instrument processing impacts patient safety and infection control within perioperative services.

CLIENT: Healthcare System, Multiple Perioperative Sites

ENGAGEMENT: Onsite Consultation

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION: AORN Works, Inc. was engaged to conduct an operational assessment of the central sterile services based on perioperative administrative concerns regarding overall compliance with standards of practice at multiple healthcare system sites.

PROCESS: Consultants conducted an assessment of instrument processing activities including evaluation of instrument processing practices, education, performance improvement initiatives and infection control considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Implement national standards for instrument processing in each of the healthcare system perioperative and central sterile services.
2. Enforce the compliance with Bloodborne Pathogen Standard for use of PPE.
3. Develop a multidisciplinary performance improvement project between perioperative and central sterile personnel related to processing practice deficiencies.
4. Correct environmental infection control deficiencies related to processing practices.
5. Implement infection control practices consistent with national standards.

RESULTS:

1. Addressed infection control deficiencies related to instrument processing.
2. Implemented compliance with Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.
3. Identified perioperative education opportunities throughout the healthcare system.



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