CARE OF INSTRUMENTS

PURPOSE: Removal of contaminated material from surgical instruments

POLICY AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Provide clean sterile instruments for office procedure

PERSONNEL: RN, LVN, NA

PROCEDURE:

I. CLEAN CASES

A. Place instruments, opened, in the special cleaning solution. First, remove the blade from the scalpel handle. Place syringes, suture needles, and blade in container for disposal. NOTE: The solution should be mixed according to directions in cool water, as hot water causes blood to coagulate and stain instruments.

B. Brush the instruments with a bristled brush to clean blood from the grooves and the hinges.

C. Rinse the instruments in hot water, dry well.

NOTE: If instrument is stiff to operate, some build up of residue is probably present. A mild cleanser may be applied in the hinge with manipulation until it is moving freely. Rinse well with hot water to remove all the cleanser.

D. Place clean, dry instruments on clean towel, and place on tray. Send to Central Sterile for autoclaving.

II. CONTAMINATED CASES

A. Before removing gloves, place instruments in basin of Enzol solution, taking precautions to remove blade and any needles (hypo and suture). Rinse well. Soak instruments for 10 minutes. Be sure all instruments are covered.

B. Remove instruments from solution and rinse in clear, cool water

C. Wash in usual manner.