

### Disinfection and Re-Processing of Diagnostic Contact Lenses:

1. Typically all disinfection and reprocessing of diagnostic contact lenses must be approved through your individual facility SPS (Sterile Processing Services) and/or RME (Reprocessing Medical Equipment) Committee. SPS will typically give you your finalized SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) which you can then implement in your Contact Lens Clinic.
2. You may need to obtain information for their use and to assist them in developing a suitable SOP.
  - a. For each lens kit you have, you should obtain information from the laboratory/manufacturer as to how they recommend disinfecting and storing the lenses.
  - b. Obtain a list of solutions that would work for these recommendations.
3. Once you have received your SOP from SPS, you will be responsible for setting up a Contact Lens Reprocessing Station, whether that be within your Optometry Clinic Reprocessing Station or not.
4. RME competencies should be completed by any new eye clinic members involved with contact lenses (resident, externs, new doctors and techs) and typically need to be renewed once a year by all those who play any role in the reprocessing of the contact lenses.
5. Sample SOP's are attached if your RME Committee or SPS wishes to have them.

EXAMPLE 1  
**YOUR MEDICAL CENTER**  
**YOUR CITY, YOUR STATE**

**Optometry Service**                      **January 14, 20XX**  
**Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)**

**PROTOCOL FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING RIGID GAS PERMEABLE (RGP) DIAGNOSTIC CONTACT LENSES**

PURPOSE: To establish a standard operating procedure for the cleaning and disinfection of Rigid Gas Permeable (RGP) Diagnostic Contact Lenses.

POLICY: Reusable instrumentation utilized for patient use will have written guidelines from the Manufacturer and VA Salisbury Sterile Processing Department. Contaminated small non-autoclavable tools will be cleaned by Optometry Service staff.

RESPONSIBILITY: Clinic staff using the non-autoclavable tools.

PROCEDURE:

***RGP Diagnostic Contact Lenses do not have to be disinfected in a separate room, but should be disinfected away from the patient if in the same room. Handwashing is not allowed in sinks used for processing. Personal protective equipment (gloves, eye protection) will be worn by all personnel involved in cleaning this equipment.***

*According to the manufacturer's guidelines Rigid Gas Permeable (RGP) Diagnostic Contact Lenses will be cleaned and disinfected as follow:*

*According to manufacturer's guidelines, Rigid Gas Permeable (RGP) contact lenses used in trial fittings should be disinfected between each fitting.*

- 1. Place RPG lens in the palm of your hand with several drops of Optimum extra strength cleaner for RPG lenses. Rub lens back and forth for 10 seconds.*
- 2. Thoroughly rinse lens with sterile saline.*
- 3. Store lens dry.*

Reference:

/s/Person A  
Acting Chief SPD

/s/Person B  
Associate Director, Patient Care Service/  
Nurse Executive

## Example 2

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

#### **Disinfection**

#### **EYE/ Contact Lens: Fluoro Silicone Acrylate and Silicone Acrylate Rigid Gas Permeable**

1. **PURPOSE:** To delineate the process and procedures for disinfection of contact lenses in accordance with established infection control protocols.
2. **POLICY:**
  - a. All staff involved in the reprocessing of reusable medical equipment, from end of use at point of care to storage, will be appropriately trained and will follow the Standard Operating Procedure that will reflect the manufacturer's recommendations and principles of infection prevention and control.
  - b. All Eye contact lens providers will be appropriately trained on the procedures and protocols for contact lens disinfection. Training and competencies will be documented annually using the Competency sheet (Attachment 1). The competency sheet will be on file in the Eye clinic for periodic review, and in each individual training record maintained by the Nurse Manager of the Eye Clinic.
  - c. All personnel who perform reprocessing procedures will be checked off as competent by their supervisor prior to performing reprocessing without direct supervision by previously trained competent staff.
3. **RESPONSIBILITY:**
  - a. The Eye Clinic Executive is ultimately responsible for
    1. the implementation of the Eye clinic infection control procedures and for maintaining them within the guidelines as established by the Medical Center,
    2. ensuring that patients and staff are not exposed to infectious pathogens during procedures.
    3. ensuring that operators and staff follow standard operating procedures for reprocessing of reusable medical equipment.
    4. delegation to the Eye Clinic Nurse / Technician for proper cleaning and disinfection of fluoro silicone acrylate and silicone acrylate rigid gas permeable contact lenses.
  - b. The Nurse Manager Sterile Processing is responsible for oversight and monitoring of all reprocessing of medical equipment within the MEDVAMC.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

- a. Eye Clinic: Boston ADVANCE Cleaner
  1. Wash hands with mild soap.
  2. Rub both sides of the lenses carefully with two to four (4) drops of Boston ADVANCE Cleaner in the palm of hand for twenty (20) seconds.
  3. Remove all traces of the cleaner by thoroughly rinsing with sterile contact lens solution.
  4. Place lenses in empty lens case and fill with fresh Boston ADVANCE Comfort Formula Conditioning Solution. Soak lenses for at least four (4) hours (or overnight) before wearing.

5. Discard solution ninety (90) days after opening. Record date opened in space provided on bottle label. *Note: When used daily, this solution will be depleted before ninety (90) days.*
6. For weekly protein removal, use Boston ONE STEP Liquid Enzymatic Cleaner.
7. Lens cases should be replaced frequently to avoid potential microbial contamination and ocular irritation.
8. To avoid contamination, never touch dropper tip of the container with your hands or to any surface. Keep bottle tightly closed when not in use.
9. To ensure proper hygiene and handling of contact lenses and contact lens solutions, always follow label directions carefully.
10. Never reuse this solution.
11. Always use fresh solution for soaking and storing lenses.
12. Always wash hands before handling the lenses.
13. Store solutions at room temperature. Avoid freezing.
14. After inserting the lenses, always rub and thoroughly clean the interior of the lens case with sterile contact lens solution (never use tap water), empty, and leave open to air dry after each use.
15. Use before expiration date on the container. Do not use if imprinted neckband on bottle is missing or broken.
16. Never soak lenses in any cleaner.
17. Always rinse lenses thoroughly with sterile contact lens solution after cleaning.

**5. REFERENCES:**

- A. Polymer Technology (USA) Corporation, a Bausch & Lomb Company 10/00.

**6. RESCISSION:** None

**7. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Nurse Manager Sterile Processing in collaboration with CSS Service Chief, Eye Care Line Executive, Infection Control Practitioner, and Infection Control Committee.

**8. REVISION:** July 7, 20XX

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Eye Care Line Executive

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Nurse Manager

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Infection Control Committee, Chair

Distribution:

1. Original signed copy to be kept with Eye Care Line Executive
2. Authorized copies of the signed SOP to be kept in the following location(s):
  - a. Eye Clinic per Chief Optometry or Ophthalmology
  - b. SPD Desk Guidebook