

24 July 2024

Sterile Services – Occurrences of Compromised Packaging & Any Resulting Cancelled Surgeries

1. How many instrument / procedure trays *all specialities* were processed during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?

Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) Central Decontamination Unit (CDU): 187,550
Musgrave Park Hospital (MPH) CDU: 54,835

2. Please indicate staffing structure, banding and budgeted FTE for all posts within Sterile Services.

Band/Site	RVH CDU	MPH CDU
7	1	1
6	2	1
5	5	1
4 Admin	1	0
4 SATO	24	5
3 Admin	2.99	0.8
3 ATO	92	16

3. How many instrument / procedure trays were found to have had compromised packaging through holes / tears or issue with sterilization container for *all specialities* during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?

Items rejected prior to final despatch to theatre / clinical areas by decontamination staff and reprocessed: 402 items

4. How many recorded instances of delays in surgery or procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instrument / procedure trays for *all specialities* during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?

6

5. How many recorded instances of cancellations in surgery or procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instruments / procedure trays for *all speciality* during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?

<5

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

6. Looking at the specialities of only Orthopaedic and Spine instrument / procedure trays, how many trays were processed during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024.

81644 items

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7. How many Orthopaedic and Spine instrument / procedure trays were found to have compromised packaging through holes / tears or issue with sterilization container, during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?

Items rejected prior to final despatch to theatre / clinical areas by decontamination staff and reprocessed: 258

8. How many recorded instances in delayed surgery / procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instrument / procedure trays for specifically Orthopaedic and Spine trays during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?

<5 - Exact figure exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

9. How many recorded instances of cancellations in surgery / procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instrument / procedure trays for specifically Orthopaedic and Spine trays during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?

<5 - Exact figure exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

10. Which product for sterilization barrier is utilised for instrument trays, please specify product of sterilization wrap and/or rigid container type?

GEM3154T-EU Gemini Duo 114x114 61G Wrap Blue/Pink
GEM3154T-EU Gemini Duo 137x137 61G Wrap Blue/Pink
GEM3172T-EU Gemini Duo 137x182 61G Wrap Blue/Pink
Clinipak Yellow Transport 100x100cm
Clinipak Purple Transport 100x100cm
Clinipak Orange Transport 100x100cm
Transport Wrap 1000mm x 1000mm (White)
Tray liner Crepe 457 x 550
Tray liner Crepe 305 x 600
Gainé "Ultra" SI 120x70mm (Dental Drills)
Gainé "Ultra" SI 160x70mm (X-ray & Composite Guns)
Gainé "Ultra" SI 220x70mm (Phacos)
Gainé "Ultra" SI 250x70mm (SOD Sets)
Gainé "Ultra" SI 320x70mm (SOD Baskets)
Gainé "Ultra" SI 420x70mm (Ortho Inner)
Gainé "Ultra" SI 470x70mm (Ortho Outer)
Gainé "Ultra" SI 520x70mm (Ortho Large)

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11. If using rigid sterilization containers, what factors led to this decision, i.e. weight of tray, design of tray, mission critical tray, other?

Not applicable.

12. What method of transportation is used to move trays from storage areas to theatres, trolley, containers or other? Please specify type and make/model in use, if available?

Instrument trays are placed into stainless steel trolleys. The trolleys are collected by a Transport team who deliver to theatres.

13. Do Sterile Services / Theatres specify a weight limit for instrument trays either for wrap or rigid sterilization container?

Limit - 8kg

14. If in use, how do Sterile Services thermally disinfect (*decontaminate*) rigid sterilization containers – through Instrument Washer Disinfector, Cart / Container Washer Disinfector, Other?

Not applicable.