

Standard Operating Procedure / Protocol **Handling of Prostheses and Implants**

Standard Statement:

All staff will ensure that any implant or prosthesis is minimally handled to reduce the risks of contamination or mishandling / dropping of the item

Method:

- The correct implant(s) will be confirmed during the pre-list briefing and during the SIGN IN
- The implant/ prostheses expiry date must be checked. The implant/ prostheses must not be opened until the scrub person and the surgeon have checked the item as correct and requested its delivery to the sterile trolley.
- The item should be opened carefully according to the manufacturer's guidelines and should be taken directly by the scrub person. The item must not be dropped on to the sterile surface to prevent both damage to the item, accidental contamination, and wastage if the item should fall.
- The scrub person having taken the item should identify a safe area of the sterile trolley, which is away from the working area, for storage of the item, until it is required.
- Where the item is provided sealed within another layer of packaging, the scrub person should leave this packaging intact, if possible, to reduce possible cross contamination.
- When the surgeon requests the item, the packaging may be opened on a clutter free sterile area of the trolley. The item should be kept as close to the surface of the trolley as possible, in case the item is accidentally dropped.
- Transfer of the item wherever possible should be either, within the opened sterile packaging provided, or in an identified safe receptacle, such as a receiver.

- Where the item has its own specific delivery instrument or impaction device, the item, where possible should be mounted by the surgeon who is undertaking the procedure. Once mounted the whole should be placed very carefully on a flat sterile surface, of sufficient area, free from any other swabs or instruments. The surgeons themselves should then pick up the item as required.
- Where there is no other option but to hand the item from scrub person to surgeon, this must be done directly and never through a third party, such as assisting surgeon, or trainee scrub person to reduce the risk of wastage and cross contamination.
- Any traceability stickers or prostheses/implant details must be recorded in the patients' notes and on other relevant documentation
- In the event of a prosthesis or implant being dropped or contaminated, the item must be discarded and a fresh sterile item sourced. It is not acceptable to attempt to decontaminate any implants or prostheses within the department. If in doubt, contact a senior member of the theatre team for advice.

Measure:

- Observation
- Questioning staff
- Audit

Other related SOP / Policies:

SOP Skin preparation and draping

SOP Opening of sterile trays and packages

SOP Recording the Use of Prosthesis, Implant and High Value products

LOCAL MODIFICATION		
Process/Description	Responsible Person	Date
“Local Modification” section added to SOP	Author	15/6/23
No changes	[REDACTED]	15/6/23