POSITION STATEMENT

Reuse of Single-Use Critical Medical Devices

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Definitions
For the purpose of this document, SGNA adopted the following definitions:

Critical medical device refers to a device that is introduced directly into the bloodstream or that contacts a normally sterile tissue or body space during use (U.S. Food and Drug Administration [FDA], 2015a).

Original device refers to a new, unused, single-use instrument (FDA, 2009).

Reusable medical device refers to an instrument designed and labeled for multiple uses and reprocessed by thorough cleaning and high level disinfection and sterilization between patients (FDA, 2015b).

Reprocess refers to a method to ensure proper disinfection or sterilization; it can include cleaning, inspection, wrapping, sterilizing, and storing (Rutala, Weber, & the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, 2008).

Reprocessed single use device refers to an original device that has been used on a patient and then subjected to additional processing and manufacturing for the purpose of an additional single use on a patient (FDA, 2009).

Single-use device (SUD) refers to an instrument labeled by the manufacturer for one-time use only or on a single patient during a single procedure (FDA, 2009).

Background
In order to save costs and reduce medical waste, the FDA (2002) established statutory requirements in 2002 for reprocessing of specific SUDs by approved reprocessors.

SGNA believes that patients deserve the same standard of care regardless of practice setting. The reuse of single-use critical medical devices is a complex issue that must be balanced with the assurance of patient safety, the delivery of quality health care, and the cost. These concerns cannot be overlooked when evaluating the legal, ethical, financial, and technical aspects of reusing SUDs.

SGNA supports further research to define risk and document benefits of reprocessing single-use critical medical devices.
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Position
In the absence of substantial scientific evidence to prove the safety and effectiveness of reprocessed single-use critical medical devices in the endoscopy setting, SGNA maintains the position that critical medical devices originally manufactured and labeled for single use should not be reused.

References


Recommended Reading


Adopted by the SGNA Board of Directors, February 1998.
SGNA Practice Committee 2014-2015
Michelle R. Juan, MSN RN CGRN — Chair
Ann Herrin, BSN RN CGRN — Co-chair
Catherine Bauer MBA BSN RN CGRN
Susan Bocian, MSN BSN RN
Cynthia M. Friis, MEd BSN RN-BC
Midolie Loyola, MSN RN CGRN
Beja Mlinarich, BSN RN CAPA
Marilee Schmelzer, PhD RN
Stephanie White, MSN/Ed RN CGRN HCI
Sharon Yorde, BSN RN CGRN