Just the Facts...

Bloodborne Pathogens – Decontamination Procedures for Chemical Disinfectants

General Principles

- Decontamination involves routine cleaning and disinfection of instruments, devices, and environmental surfaces to minimize the risk of cross-contamination and bloodborne disease.

- Decontamination procedures range from removal of visible material with soap and water to disinfection and sterilization procedures.

- Factors to consider when selecting a decontamination procedure are the desired degree of microorganism removal, type of surface to be decontaminated, expense, and ease of disinfectant use.

Chemical Disinfection

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to avoid contact with hands, eyes, face, etc. when using a chemical disinfectant.

- Use disinfectants in well-ventilated areas.

- Thoroughly remove visible contamination (blood, body fluids, and other potentially infectious materials) with soap and water before using a chemical disinfectant.

- Select disinfectants most suited to the activity and always read the disinfectant's label and material safety data sheet (MSDS).

- Follow the manufacturers' directions on the disinfectant's warning label and MSDS for safe handling, storage, and use.

- Open, disassemble, and completely submerge instruments to ensure direct contact between all surfaces and disinfectant.

- Thoroughly rinse and dry all items after disinfecting, taking care not to recontaminate items.

Hazard Communication

Organizations must comply with 29 CFR 1910.1200, Hazard Communication, when personnel are required to use hazardous chemicals. This standard requires a written hazard communication program, hazardous chemical inventories, appropriate hazard warnings, MSDSs, and an employee information and training program.

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