

TITLE: STERILISATION OF EQUIPMENT	
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PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines on the maintenance and sterilisation of lifeguard medical equipment.

SCOPE:

This Guideline applies to:

- Lifesavers, club captains and/or team leaders
- Lifeguards and lifeguard supervisors
- Coastal managers

This Guideline applies to volunteer lifesavers and employed lifeguards in both ocean and stillwater environments.

GUIDELINE DESCRIPTION:

1.0 Maintenance of first aid equipment

First aid equipment should be replaced after use so that the first aid kit is always fully stocked and ready for use. There are a number of points to consider in relation to maintaining first aid equipment:

- a. Make sure that the first aid kits and equipment are checked regularly.
- b. Restock first aid supplies after use prior to expiry.
- c. Clean equipment after use.
- d. Develop and implement protocols to ensure first aid equipment is ready for use at all times.
- e. Record any discrepancies using established protocols.

2.0 Cleansing and sterilisation of resuscitation equipment

The following cleansing process for resuscitation equipment should be followed by lifesavers and lifeguards:

- a. Wash equipment in warm soapy water.
- b. Rinse in water to remove soap residue.
- c. Soak in 10% bleach or 70% alcoholic hibitane for 2 minutes.
- d. Wash carefully in running water to remove bleach residue.
- e. Dry carefully.

DEFINITIONS:

Sterilisation means 'the act or procedure of making some object or organism barren, infertile or free of live bacteria or other micro-organisms'.

REFERENCES:

Cross Infection Risks and Manikin Disinfection, Policy Statement No. 9.6.1, Australian Resuscitation Council, March 2001, www.resus.org.au

Surf Life Saving Australia, 2005. Surf life saving first aid and emergency care, 1st edition. Elsevier Australia Pty Ltd.

Surf Life Saving Australia, 2003. Surf lifesaving training manual, 32nd edition. Elsevier Australia Pty Ltd.

APPENDICES:

Nil