

CBOC Contract :

Reusable Medical Equipment (RME)

1. All critical * and semi-critical* reusable medical equipment (RME) will be disposable. Examples of critical and semi-critical RME include scissors, forceps, suture sets, and speculums. This list is not exhaustive.
2. Clean supplies and equipment will be stored in a separate area from dirty supplies and equipment.
3. With regard to non-critical* RME, see the section concerning infection control.

***Definitions:**

Critical RME- Devices which enter normally sterile tissue or the vascular system (bloodstream) or through which blood flows are considered critical devices, e.g. surgical instruments, cardiac catheters, implants, probes used in forceps, etc)

Semi-critical RME- Devices that come into contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin. They do not ordinarily penetrate body surfaces. Examples: flexible endoscopes, respiratory equipment, endocavitary probes and tonometers are considered semi-critical devices. These items require high level disinfection at a minimum, if sterilization is not recommended or approved by the manufacturer of the equipment.

Non-critical RME- Devices that come in contact with intact skin but not mucous membranes. Examples: blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, non-invasive ultrasound, vital signs machines, bladder scanners, exam tables.