Developing and Implementing A New Standard Process for Surgical Instrument Decontamination
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**Background**

- Observed and documented instrument reprocessing procedures for sterile processing departments to identify variability in practices
- 29 video recordings across 3 commonly-used instrument sets
- Time studies & process mapping
- Quantified the compliance by different cleaning steps

**Solution Approach**

Summarize and analyze Instructions for Use (IFUs) from instrument manufacturers to compile best practices & design process standards
- Extract cleaning procedure requirements
- Comparative study between manufacturers & instruments
- Documentation of manufacturers’ IFUs with flowchart

Sample Manual Cleaning IFUs | Manufacturer J | General Surgical Instruments

**Results**

Manufacturer IFUs for manual cleaning are:
- Highly variable across manufacturers for identical instruments
- Identical for most instruments from the same manufacturer

Compliance to process standards
- Generally better compliance by morning shift than afternoon shift
- Still opportunities for improved performance
- 27% of observations satisfied all applicable criteria

**Conclusions and Future Work**

Conclusions:
1. Wide IFU variation for equivalent instruments contributes to increased cleaning time and rework
2. Increased compliance relative to previous decontamination standard

Ongoing work:
1. Continue auditing technicians on the new standard process
2. Evaluate the training and auditing processes that were used to implement the new standard process
3. Investigate possible discrepancies between CSPD standard and individual manufacturer IFUs

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