## **Outdated guidance – do not use**

## **FOR reprocessing reusable medical devices (RMDs)**

## **AS/NZS4815:2006 has now been superseded by AS 5369:2023.**

If a practice is reprocessing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, RMDs, [AS/NZS4815:2006](https://www.standards.govt.nz/shop/asnzs-48152006/) sets the standard for cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and the maintenance of associated environments

This criterion captures the main requirements of AS/NZS 4815:2006 in both the evidence requirements and guidance information.

If practices require more in depth information on reprocessing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, [AS/NZS 4815:2006 can be purchased.](https://www.standards.govt.nz/)

The standard for reprocessing RMDs requires: Using the correct soaking solution/medium for instruments:

* validation of the sterilization process using ‘indicators’
* cleaning and disinfecting protocols
* planning the work area layout and flow to prevent contamination.

Team members responsible for cleaning, disinfecting, sterilising, storing, and distributing items, need to be trained to ensure they can correctly perform these tasks.

Validation of the steriliser is important. The practice will need to demonstrate how the effectiveness of each sterilisation cycle is monitored, for example, printouts of every cycle, chemical indicator for every load or data logged directly to the computer.

Calibration on site must be done (and documented):

* when steriliser is first installed
* annually
* when serviced or repaired.

For the steriliser, the practice needs a record of annual and current (within the last 12 months):

* servicing
* calibration
* validation.

The practice will also need to provide records if the practice uses an off-site service.

AS/NZS 4815:2006 requires that sterilisation records must be kept for 12 months showing the time and date when each article was sterilised; and the length of time that the article was sterilised and the temperature and pressure levels of the autoclave.

## **Training and induction**

The College has not specified training or frequency of training in favour of practices identifying which training best fits the scope of their individual practices and aligns with the NZ Standards applied to the indicators.

For training recommendations, practices can consult the Ministry of Health, their PHO and/or the manufacturer/retailer of the equipment. The College will also accept correctly documented in-house training.

Training options:

* Instrument reprocessing : An onsite practical workshop on reprocessing instruments /RMDs to the AS 5369:2023 Standard. Email: brent@curis .co.nz
* Training on how to safely operate, monitor and calibrate sterilizers/autoclaves provided through a PHO or from the retailer or manufacturer of the steriliser/autoclave.
* [LearnOnline](https://learnonline.health.nz/totara/catalog/index.php?catalog_fts=infection%20control&orderbykey=score&itemstyle=narrow) Infection prevention and control 2021.
* ACEhub [infection prevention and control courses](https://www.acehub.co.nz/courses/#infection-prevention-control) and [sterilisation courses](https://www.acehub.co.nz/courses/#sterilisation)
* An orientation - induction programme which is role specific and includes infection prevention and control, sterilisation, antimicrobial stewardship and waste management, as applicable.
* [MoH Part 5: Infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/certification-health-care-services/services-standard/resources-nga-paerewa-health-and-disability-services-standard/sector-guidance-nga-paerewa-health-and-disability-services-standard-nzs-81342021/part-5).