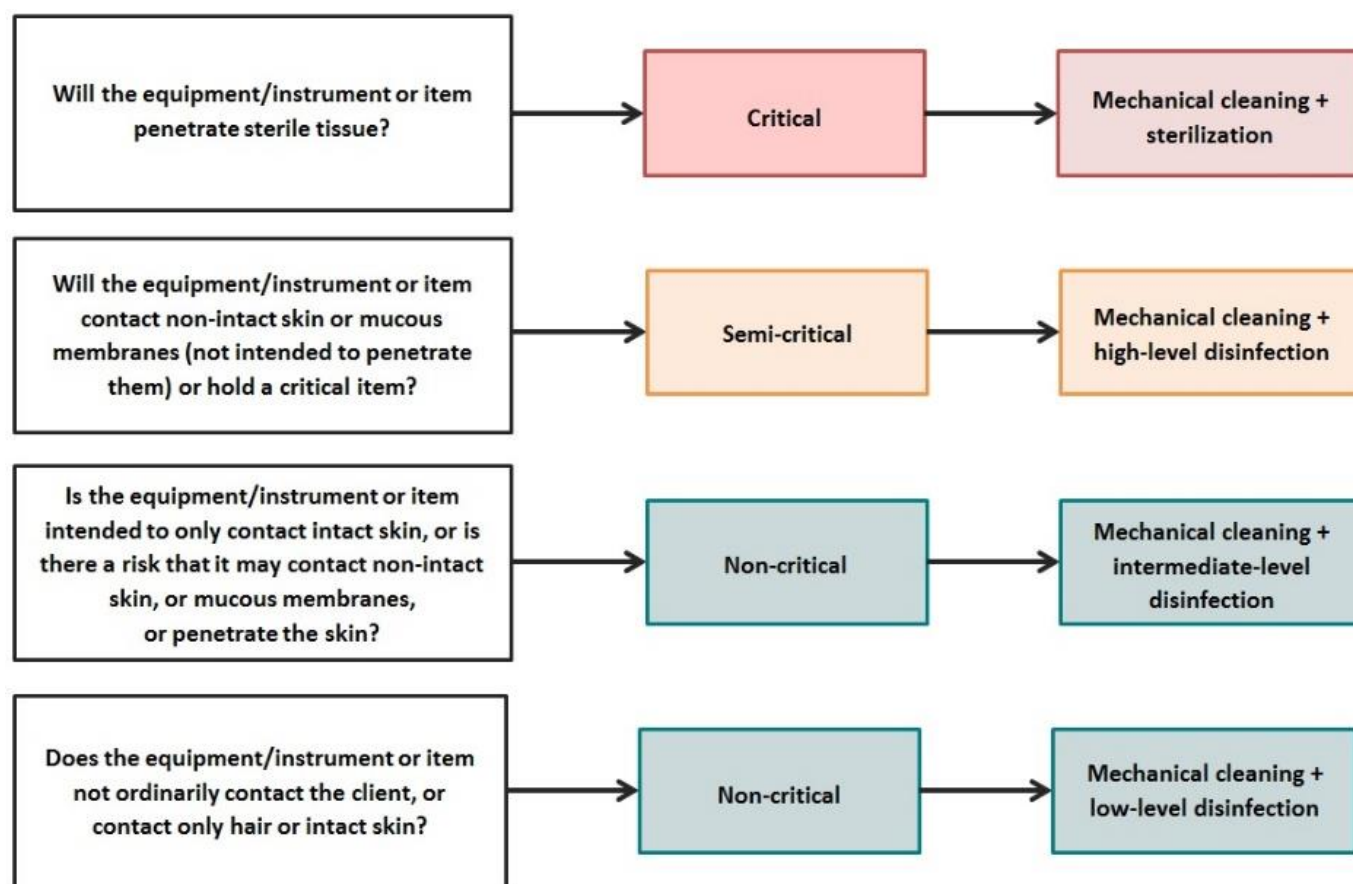


## AT A GLANCE

## Algorithm for Level of Reprocessing for Equipment and Instruments

This document is an excerpt from the [Guide to Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Service Settings](#). It helps to classify equipment/instruments and determine the level of reprocessing required based on the intended and actual use of the equipment/instruments. For more information, please consult the full Guide, visit the [IPAC in Personal Service Settings webpage](#) or email [ipac@oahpp.ca](mailto:ipac@oahpp.ca).



Adapted from British Columbia Ministry of Health, Health Protection Branch document *Guidelines for Personal Service Establishments*.<sup>87</sup>

Examples of levels of reprocessing required based on classification of equipment and instruments:

Tattoo, piercing, or electrolysis needles. Because these needles are designed to penetrate the skin, they are classified as **critical** and are to be **sterilized**. It is recommended these items be purchased as pre-sterilized, single use and disposable.

- Tweezers used to expose and remove ingrown hairs. Because these tweezers are in contact with non-intact skin, they are classified as **semi-critical** and require cleaning followed by **high-level disinfection**.
- Nail clippers or nippers. Because these items are designed to trim nails and cuticles but may accidentally penetrate the skin, they are classified as **non-critical, (intermediate-level disinfection)**, and require cleaning followed by **intermediate-level disinfection**.
- Hair-cutting scissors. Because these items are designed to only contact hair and sometimes intact skin, they are classified as **non-critical (low-level disinfection)**, and require cleaning followed by **low-level disinfection**. Although the instrument is non-critical, if the scissors come into contact with non-intact skin, mucous membranes, or penetrate the skin, the instrument becomes **non-critical (intermediate-level disinfection)**, requiring cleaning followed by **intermediate-level disinfection**.

## References

The following references follow the order of the original document. For a full reference list please refer to [Guide to Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Service Settings](#).

87. British Columbia. Ministry of Health. Health Protection Branch. Guidelines for personal service establishments [Internet]. Victoria, BC: Province of British Columbia; 2017 [cited 2018 May 18]. Available from: [www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/pses/pse\\_guidelines\\_final\\_nov\\_2017.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/pses/pse_guidelines_final_nov_2017.pdf)

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## Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. At a glance, Algorithm for level of reprocessing for equipment and instruments.

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Public Health Ontario acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Government.