




**What You Don't Know Can Hurt You**  
**Gail Meara, Alberta Health Services**  
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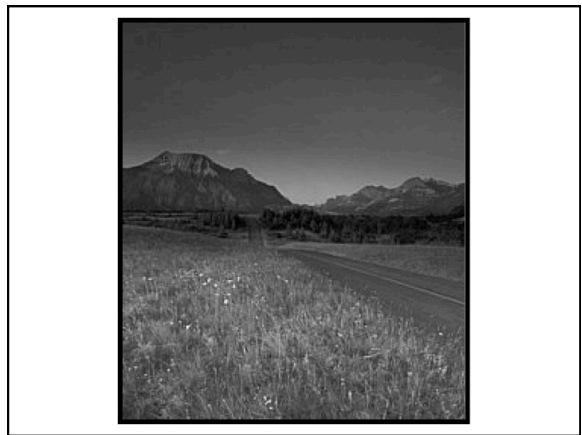
***What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!***  
*Challenges in Reprocessing in Community Settings*

*Gail Meara RN, BScN*  
*Health Protection*  
*Alberta Health Services*

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**Partnership's**

- **Formal**
  - MOH
  - Environmental Health Officer
  - Community Infection Control Practitioner
    - Unique Partnership
- **Informal**
  - Professional Organizations

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**What do we do?**

- Respond to complaints about community based health care settings.
  - Complaints have been received for a variety of community healthcare settings.
    - E.g. Medical, dental, podiatry, physio and acupuncture offices.

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**How do we get complaints?**

- Public
- Professional Colleges

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**How do we proceed?**

- Set up date for inspection in conjunction with the College and the practitioner.
- Conduct the inspection.
- Provide onsite education re IPC and reprocessing.
- Provide written report of the findings of the inspection.
- Provide written resources to assist the practitioner to comply with requirements.
- Follow-up.

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**What are we seeing?**

- Health practitioners have a general lack of understanding around IPC and reprocessing.
- Seen across all disciplines (medical, dental, podiatry, medical imaging, acupuncture).


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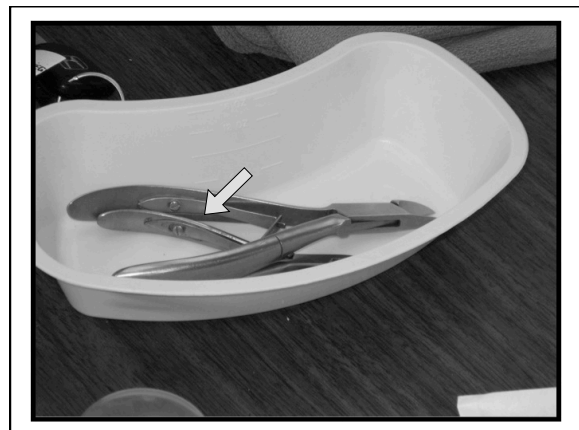
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**Example # 1**

- Podiatrist
- Working in LTC
- Complaint – using the same equipment on multiple residents.

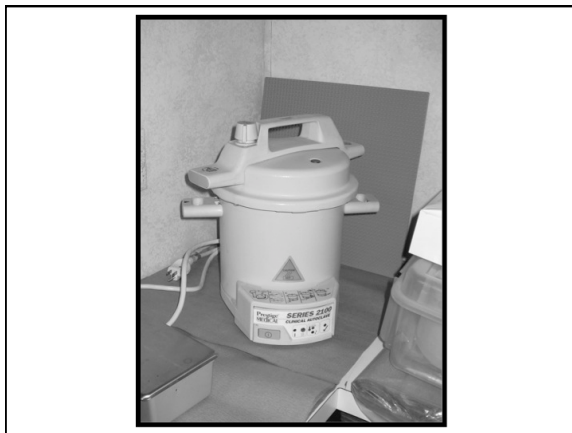



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**Example # 2**

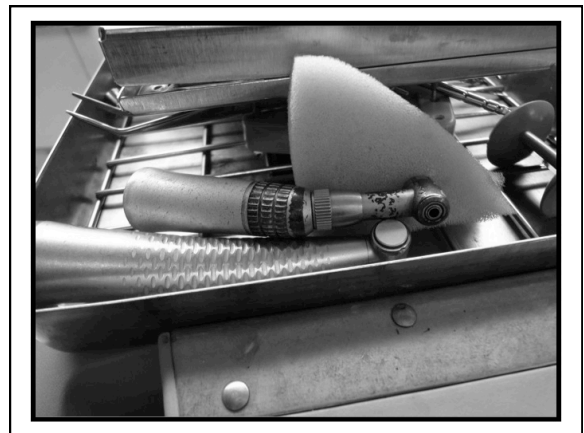
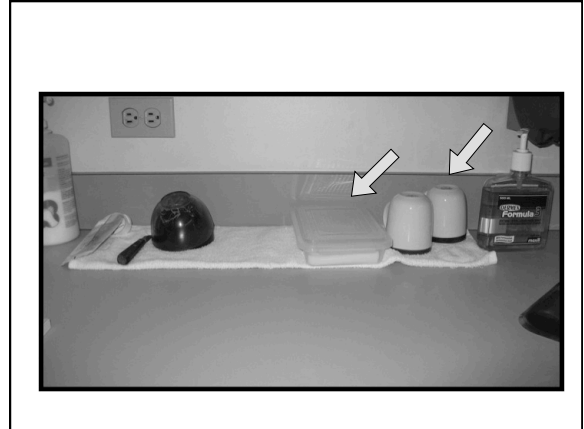
- Dental Office
- Complaint re lack of hand hygiene



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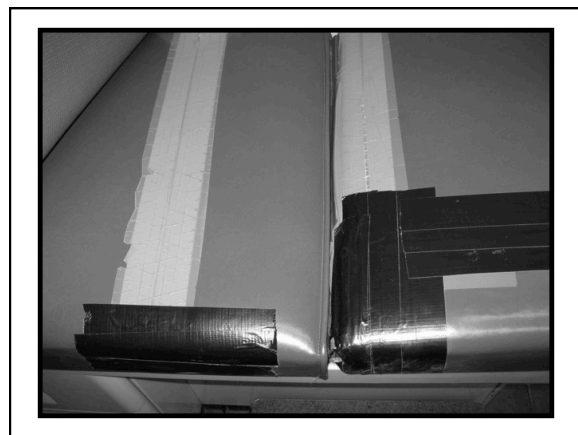
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**Example # 3**

- Physician Walk-in Clinic
- Complaint – dirty office

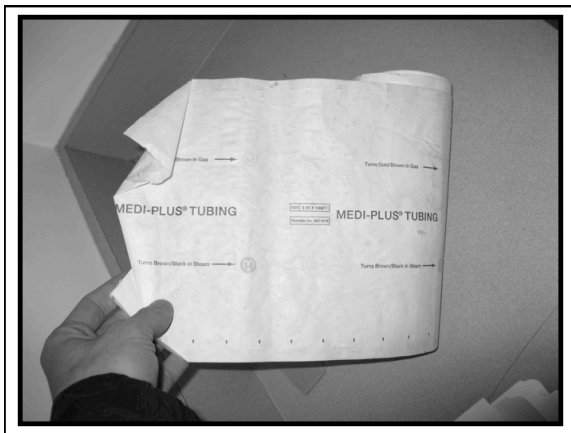
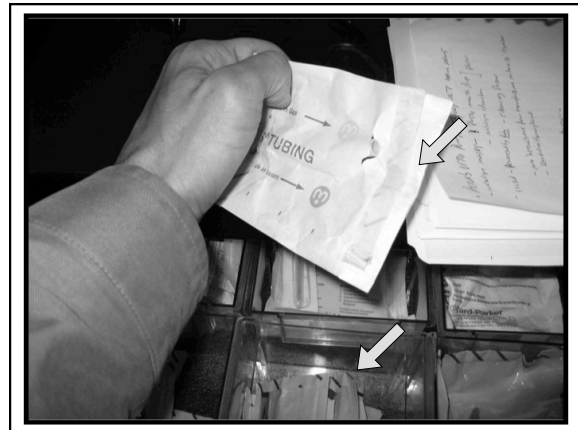
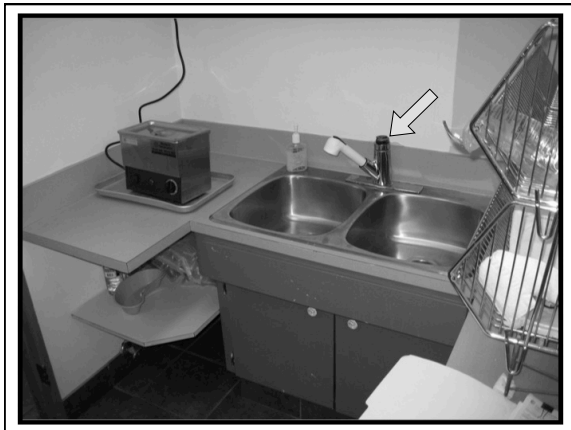



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**Example # 4**

- Podiatrist
- Complaint – unwrapped instruments taken from a box, used (bloody) and placed back in box with other unwrapped instruments.




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**Example # 5**

- **Physician Walk-in Clinic**
- **Complaint – concern with how a burn was redressed.**

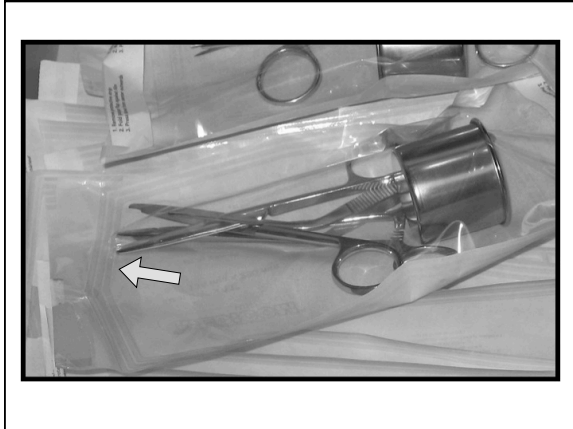


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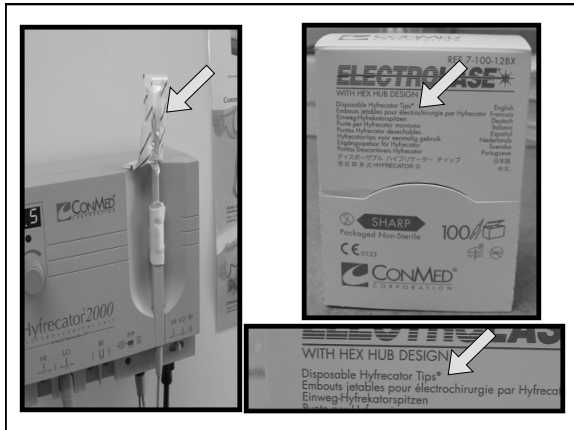
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**Example # 6**


- Physician Walk-in Clinic
- Complaint – dirty office

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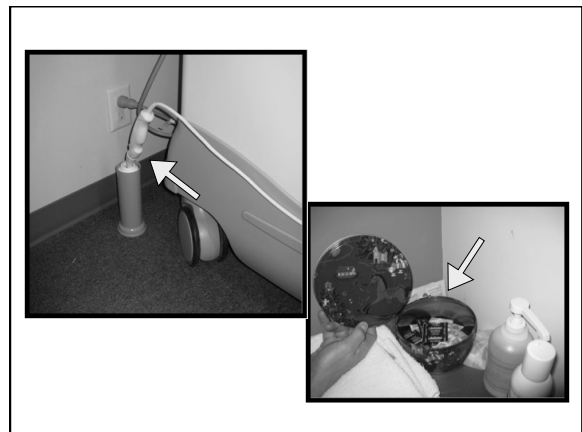
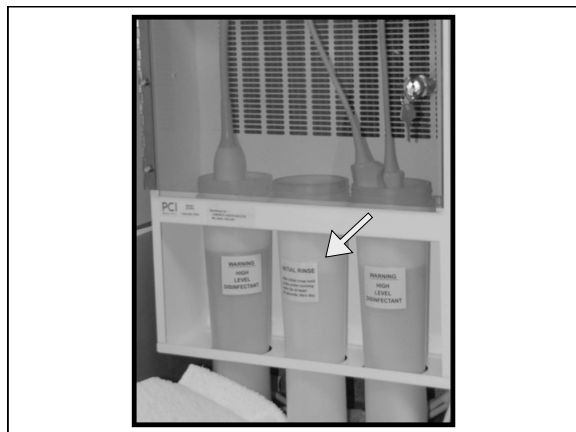
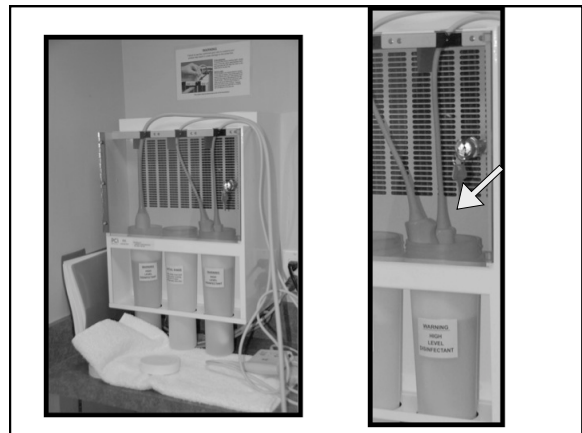
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**Example # 7**

- Medical Imaging Clinic
- Complaint – positive MRSA follow-up

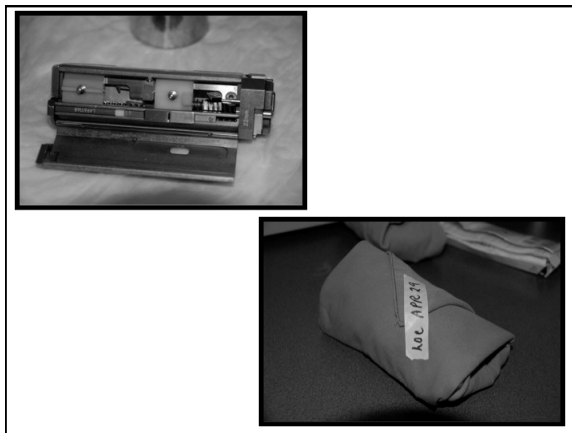


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**Example # 8**


- Dental Office
- Complaint re garbage- disposal

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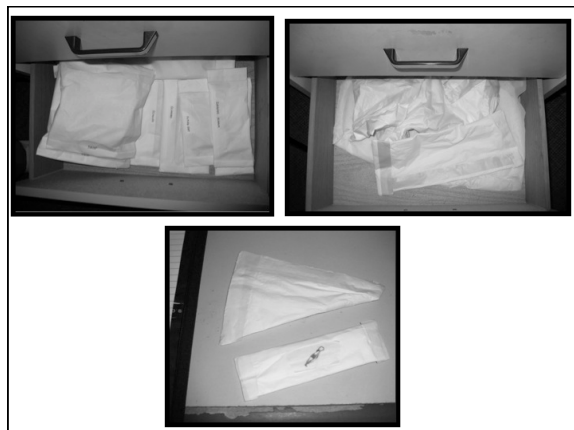
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**Example # 9**

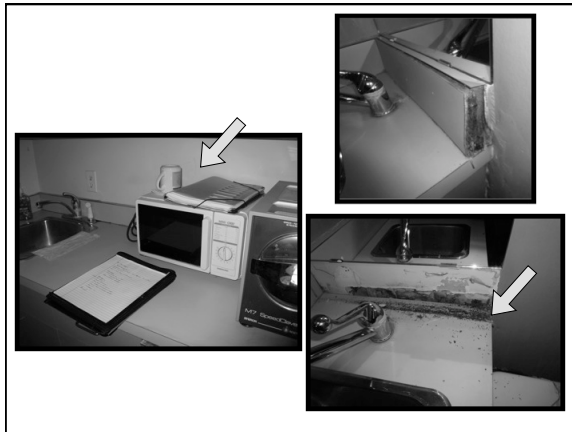
- Medical Office
- Complaint of dirty office

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**Example #10**

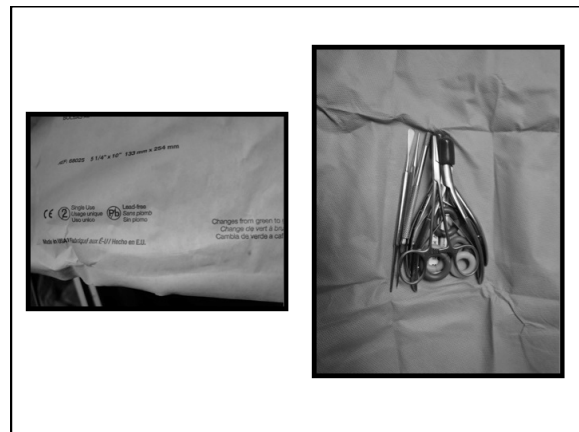
- Podiatry Clinic
- Complaint- Post treatment infection

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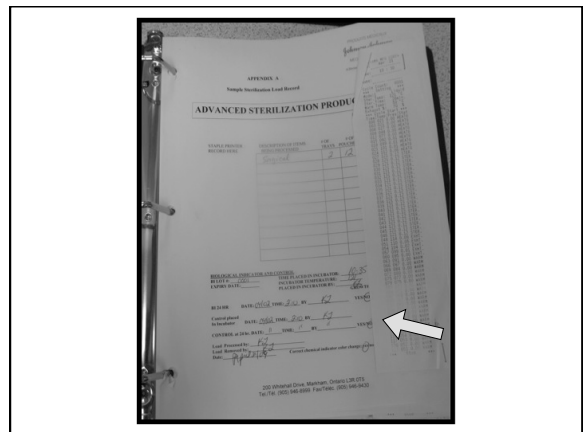
- Multi location operation
- Central reprocessing for all sites.

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**Common deficiencies:**

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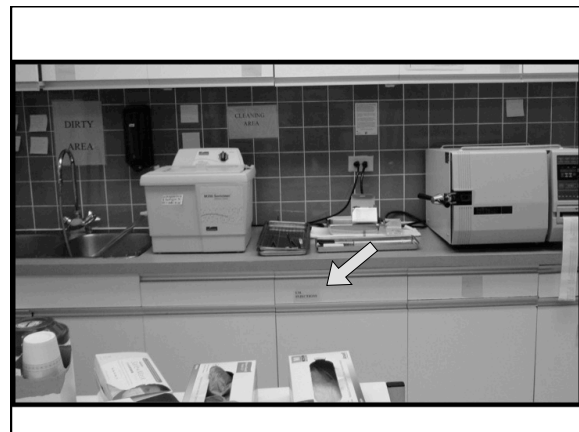
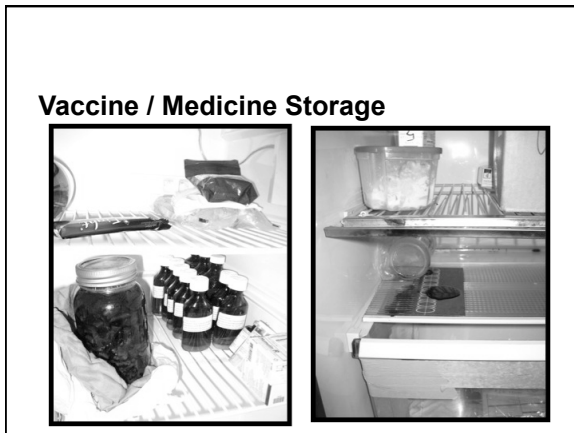
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**Multi-use Vials**

**Single-use Vials**

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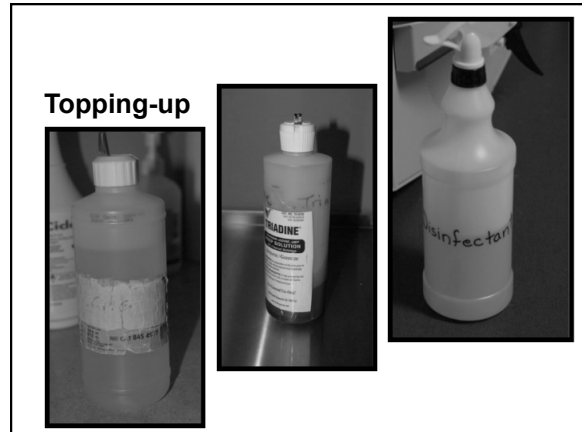
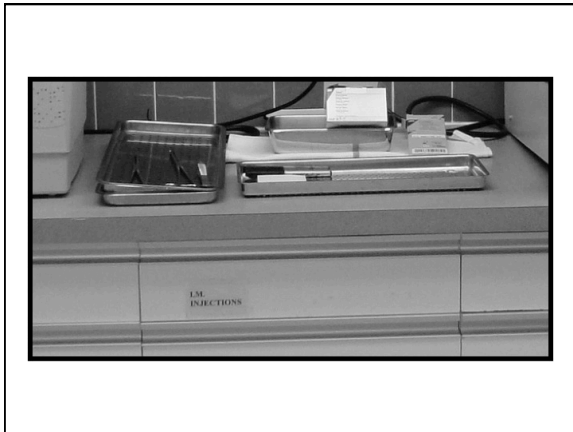
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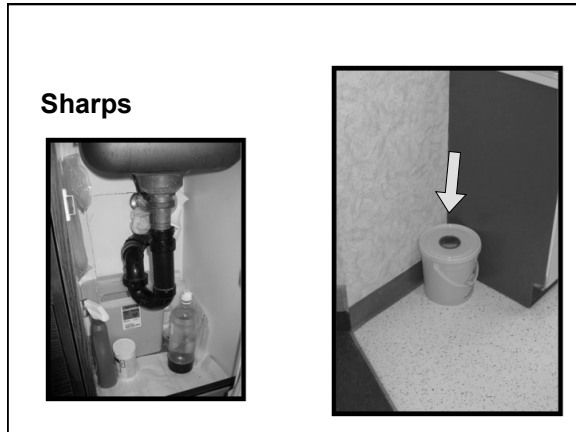


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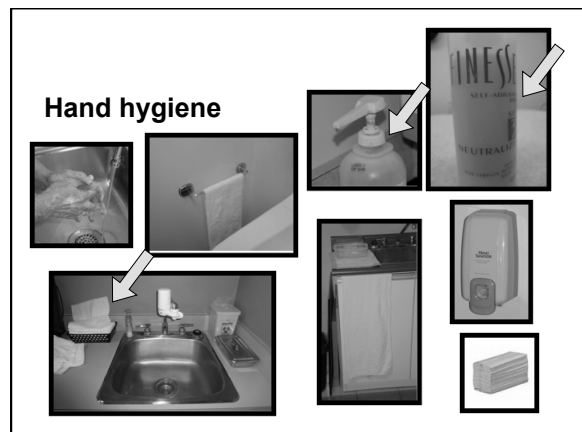
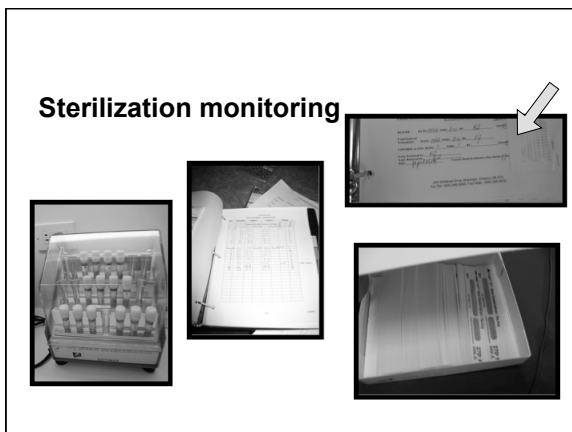
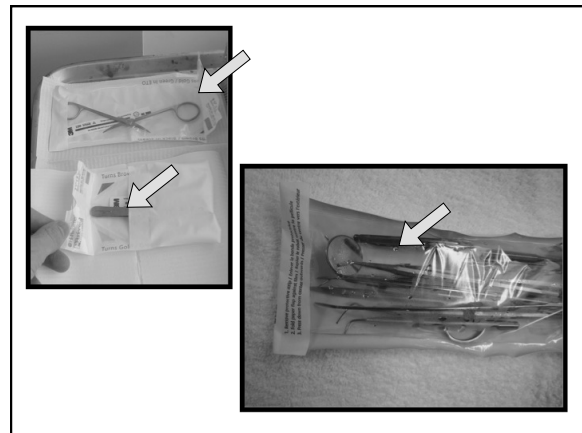
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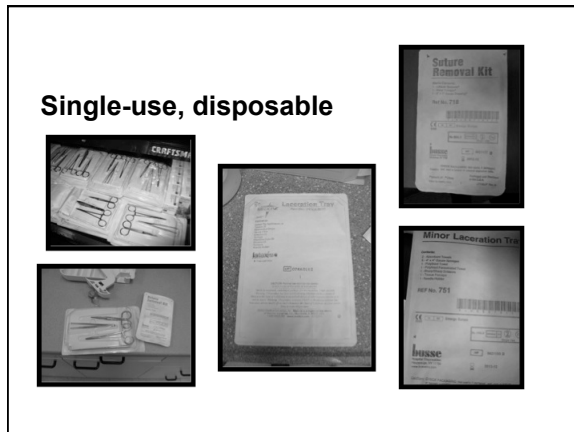
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**Why?**

- Practitioners were effectively on their own after registering with their respective College (no guidelines for how to set up reprocessing area and limited information on general IPC).
- Historical lack of oversight from Licensing body – inspection and education.
- No one told me I was doing it wrong... therefore I was doing it right.
- *This is changing!*

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**Why? (con't)**

- Limited access to educational sessions directed to office based settings.
- Current standards are directed at large central reprocessing areas.
- Standards specific to office settings and table top sterilizers need to be developed.

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College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA)

- Leaders in our community sector.
- General Reprocessing Survey and Audit.
- IPC and reprocessing tools on web-site.
- “Team” approach for inspections.
- Consults with PH on issues and documents.

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**Issues**

- Fear of losing access to a hard to find health care practitioner.
- Can be difficult to complain.

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**Where are things going?**

- No shortage of work.
- Continue to build relationships with Colleges.
- Try to expand program Province wide.

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**Big questions:**

1. Should there be routine inspections of community based health care settings?
2. If so, who should conduct the inspections?
3. How often should the inspections be conducted?

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**Thank you!**

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