



Ali's Advice – helping practices navigate Foundation Standards with confidence

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Indicator 12.1 Infection Control. Specifically Reprocessing Reuseable Medical Devices (RMDs)

The RNZCGP Foundation Standards require a full suite of policies that align with set standards of infection control procedures – NZS 8134:2021 and AS/NZS 5369:2023. See [12.1 Infection control | RNZCGP](#). For the purposes of this tips and tricks page, we are only referring to the reprocessing of reuseable medical devices (RMD), and not the full Infection prevention requirements.

Why this matters

As of 1 February 2026, practices must meet AS/NZS 5369:2023 for all reprocessing of RMDs. This standard has a wide application across a variety of health settings, therefore a risk-based approach is required to ensure your practice has a quality management plan and a method to review and audit it regularly.

Key Information

Evidence required to ensure that your practice now meets the new standard:

- A Policy that includes new standards and covers all sections as outlined in the College's policy and procedure guide for reprocessing RMDs. See here [12.1 Infection control | RNZCGP](#)
- Demonstrate (onsite visit) that the reprocessing environment and facility design meets AS 5369:2023.
- A process map or flow diagram from dirty to clean which eliminates or mitigates risk of contamination. See RNZCGP section on Facility design.
- Evidence of a risk-based approach to reprocessing RMDs (including Spaulding classifications).
- Training – RNZCGP recommends annual training for all staff involved in the processing of RMDs. This is particularly important to understand and implement the changes with the new standard.

Top Tip

Ensure your lead IPC person, and any other staff who participate in reprocessing RMDs, eg HCAs, have received full training in the new standards:

- **ACEHub Infection Control and Sterilisation Essentials Bundle.** This gives a practical guide to IPC basics as well as Sterilisation basics. Their Biofilm in Instruments is also very helpful. Online, 5.2 hrs with a certificate. There is a charge for these courses, however they are highly recommended and worthwhile. [ACEhub | Infection Control & Sterilisation Essentials](#)
- **ACIPC** provides a free video series specifically on AS 5369:2023. This is more theoretical than practical. No certificates with this, so be sure to use RNZCGP training template to record any training if you use this. [Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices - ACIPC - Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control](#)

Need help?

Reach out to your Practice Partner or the WellSouth Assessors if you would like to discuss this further.

Feedback/Suggestions

For any feedback, or suggestions for future Top Tips, please email alison.wilden@wellsouth.org.nz

NEXT ISSUE: 15.1 Police vetting and Child Safety policy and checks.