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| **Yale New Haven Health**  *Department of Central Sterile Supply*  Process #ASS004 Inspection Forceps  Standard Operating Procedure  Original:  Last Reviewed:  Approved by: |

**Purpose:** To provide the procedures for testing forceps for cleanliness and functionality

**Definitions:**

**Background:**

PPE required:

* Head covering
* Clean surgical scrub attire

Equipment/tools required

* Lighted magnification (preferred, but optional)
* Magnifying glass

**Procedures:**

1. Test forceps for cleanliness and functionality each time they are processed
2. Check tips/teeth for proper alignment
   1. Check that tips and teeth line up
   2. Close instrument to ensure that handle is not sprung
3. Check for missing tips or teeth
   1. Check under lighted magnification to make sure teeth are present and line up correctly
   2. Check teeth to make sure that teeth or tips are not broken or bent
4. Check serrations for retained debris or bioburden
   1. Check under lighted magnification to make sure teeth and serrations are free of bioburden
   2. Send tray to decontamination if instrument is dirty – no cleaning is allowed in assembly
5. Check handles for cracks
6. Forceps used in pairs must match
   1. Check to make sure that tips, length, number of teeth, serration pattern, etc, match exactly
      1. Common forceps used in pairs, but mismatched, are Adson’s with teeth (delicate or regular) and Debakey forceps
7. Notify supervisor if functionality is in question