

Useful resources: instruments and consumables

IAPB Standard List

The **IAPB Standard List** provides information for eye health providers on a carefully evaluated range of eye care technologies, supplies, and training resources suitable for use in settings with limited resources.

You can now register to use the new interactive, online IAPB standard list (<http://IAPB.standardlist.org>) which allows you to create a 'basket' of items that you can print out and use when drawing up an order.

Individuals working for IAPB member organisations, or working in partnership with these organisations, will have access to the full functionality of the site, which includes being able to see the prices of all items and, in the near future, to order directly from suppliers.

Registration may take one or more days to be approved.

Paper copies of the IAPB Standard List can be ordered from Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC).

TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Cost)

PO Box 49, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5TX, UK. Tel +44 (0) 1727 853869. Email info@talcuk.org

Teaching and learning resource

Prozesky D, Stevens S, Hubley J. Effective Teaching and Learning for Eye Health Workers, International Centre for Eye Health, 2006. Free download (720 KB) on www.cehjournal.org/icehpubs.html or order free of charge from TALC. High-income countries pay £5.

Videos

Karen Watts. Handling and passing of surgical instruments; Instrument care during decontamination and sterilisation; Handling of sterile supplies (all part of the 'Nursing' package). Cost: Rs 500 per package + free postage (India only) or US \$40 per package for international orders. Order from LV Prasad Eye Institute. Write to Shobha Mocherla, A-V Producer, Central Audio-Visual Unit (CAVU) L V Prasad Eye Institute, L V Prasad Marg, Hyderabad 500 034, India. Email: video@lvpei.org

Procurement agencies in Africa

Joint Medical Stores, Uganda.

Plot 1828 Gongonya Rd, PO Box 4501

Kampala. Tel +256 (0)414510096 or toll free (Uganda only): 0800 123124. Email store@jms.co.ug or visit www.jms.co.ug

Missions for Essential Drugs, Kenya.

PO Box 78040-00507, Viwandani, Nairobi
Tel +254 (0)203920102. Email customerservice@meds.or.ke or visit www.meds.or.ke

Action Medeor, Tanzania. PO Box 72305, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Tel +255 (0)222863136.

Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, Cameroon.

Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board, PO Box 1 Bamenda, North West Province, Cameroon.
Tel: +237 (0)77964683.
Email: info@cbchealthservices.org or visit www.cbchealthservices.org

Pre-shipment inspection companies

INTERTEK
<http://www.intertek.com/government/pre-shipment-inspection/>

COTECNA
<http://www.cotecna.com/COM/EN/psi.aspx>

SGS
http://www.sgs.com/pre_shipment_inspection_-_import_verification.htm?serviceld=6942&lobld=5549

Courses: care and maintenance of ophthalmic instruments

LAICO, Aravind Eye Care Systems (AECS) runs six-week training courses in Madurai for instrument technicians. These are repeated four times a year (US \$325). LAICO offers shorter courses on invitation at a range of different training centres. The LAICO team has also helped to establish instrument maintenance training centres at the National Eye Institute, Kaduna, Nigeria; the National Institute of Ophthalmology, Hanoi, Vietnam, and Kikuyu Eye Unit, Kenya. Write to Prof V Srinivasan, LAICO, 72, Kuruvikaran Salai, Gandhi Nagar, Madurai 625 020, Tamil Nadu, India. Email: v.srinivasan@aravind.org or visit www.aravind.org/education/coursedetails.asp



Instrument



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Some eye units have technicians who are responsible for taking care of instruments. It is certainly important to have a specific person assigned to do tasks such as monthly checking and maintenance, even on a part-time basis.

However, everyone working in an ophthalmic operating theatre must be competent in the care, handling, storage, and maintenance of instruments. This will help to improve surgical outcomes, maintain an economic and affordable service for patients, and provide a safe environment for the wellbeing of patients and staff.

Including instrument care in theatre courses and in-service training is one way of ensuring staff competence. Table 1 opposite provides some guidance about the different skills each team member must be able to master.

To support in-service training, we suggest that you provide staff with lists of duties, protocols, and guidelines for instruments. This ensures that everyone will adhere to the same standards when they demonstrate instrument handling, care, and maintenance to learners. These documents can also serve as a reference for learners.

Support learners by encouraging staff to provide close supervision and give constructive (positive, supportive, and informative) feedback.

A supportive environment

Training by itself is not enough. Staff require an environment that supports them to take good care of instruments and provide high-quality care in the operating theatre. The different components of the health system (human resources, finance, equipment and supplies, leadership and governance, and health information systems) provide a useful framework

Human resources

- Plan for sufficient trained personnel to work in the operating theatre; this ensures that the standards of instrument care are maintained.
- Include a section on instrument care in the job descriptions of staff. Job descriptions document the roles and responsibilities of each person in the operating team and can be used as a basis