

Put your complete sterile services in safe hands

A hospital's sterile services department needs to be run efficiently if it's to meet the demands of your clinical teams, your patient care standards and government regulatory requirements. We have a team of experienced professionals who can manage all aspects of the surgical instrument decontamination process, from audit, through procurement, to delivery of instruments to surgeons – developing your department into an effective unit and taking away clinical risk in the sterile supply chain.

Key benefits

■ Realise financial benefits

By managing your instrument supply chain and creating more efficient teams, Decon Sciences can help you cut down on lost and damaged instruments and reduce the need for agency staff, resulting in significant reduction of your overall costs.

■ Achieve national targets

We have many years' experience of putting government guidelines into practice in hospitals throughout the UK. We work in partnership with you on patient care and compliance programmes so you can improve performance in order to meet targets.

■ Enhance patient choice

A well-managed sterile services department is critical to the welfare of patients and is therefore an important issue for patients choosing a hospital. By minimising the clinical risk in your theatres through Decon Sciences managed services you will be meeting their key selection criteria.

■ Ensure Best Practice

Our experience of the National Decontamination Programme means we can refine your operational systems and implement Best Practice in our approach to managing, motivating and training staff.

■ Meet industry requirements

We will ensure that the department achieves accreditation and compliance (MDD 93/42 EEC, ISO 13485:2003 and NICE CJD) and that all ongoing regulatory requirements are met.

Why are Decon Sciences different?

Decon Sciences Operational team consists entirely of people with a clinical, theatre or sterile services management background who understand the needs of the patients and the important links between theatres and sterile services. Projects are managed by experienced project managers who understand the clinical drivers. They recognise the importance of transition from where you are now to where you want to be and manage risk by minimising or removing the risks associated with this critical area.

We provide a partnership which the hospital can utilise through our direct engagement with clinical staff and we can support the hospital by attendance and contribution to its Decontamination Committee. We help with Care Quality Commission returns, attend joint Management Board Meetings and support development of the Decontamination Policy, (including contingency planning for sterile services.)

Decon Sciences provides a range of services tailored to meet the requirements of individual hospitals. See table overleaf.

'Decon have provided the Trust with key expertise, following the re-design of our operations, which has ensured that the HSDU provides a first class service to our clinical department'

Kevin Pirie, Deputy Director of Clinical Operations,
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

Service Area	Provision element	Standard Managed Service	Premium Managed Service	
Income generation	Management of third party income generation opportunities with profit share	✓	✓	
Issueview	Online complaints & non-conformance software toolkit to comprehensively capture, address and report on service issues	✓	✓	
SSD unit management	Quality system, internal audit, compliance & accreditation/notified body management	✓	✓	
	SSD workflow re-design to optimise efficiency	✓	✓	
	SSD-level turnaround to address control, efficacy, discipline and clinical risk issues	✓	✓	
	Staff shift patterns – review and present proposals for optimising and balancing with incoming workload	✓	✓	
	Sickness absence – data collection, review, analysis and management of staff in conjunction with appointed HR lead	✓	✓	
	General staff management within organisation's policies and procedures	✓	✓	
	Staff training – implementation of training plan to meet operational requirements and national best practice	✓	✓	
	Design and management of staff performance management framework for continual improvement of product quality	✓	✓	
	System efficacy – review of instrument tray general fitness for purpose, traceability controls and fast-track levels to make recommendations	✓	✓	
	Hold SSD service user groups	✓ (quarterly)	✓ (monthly)	
	Performance data – production of basic monthly activity volume data	✓	✓	
	Performance data – production of monthly non-conformance KPI's	✓	✓	
	Attendance at monthly Joint Management Board	✓	✓	
	Enhanced performance data – production of detailed KPI report including non-conformance, activity by client, turnaround times, fast-track data and top instrument usage		✓	
	SSD Balanced scorecard – monthly healthcheck toolkit to report on overall efficacy of the SSD		✓	
	Support with Care Quality Commission returns, national decontamination requirements including NICE CJD compliance and support with decontamination policy development		✓	
	Attendance & contributions to organisation's decontamination committee		✓	
	Direct engagement with clinicians and theatre teams – joint systems and process working agreements, development strategy engagement		✓	
	Helpdesk	Access to Decon helpdesk team for direct customer support with locating trays, critical service requests, transport changes/bookings		✓
		Undertake and report on customer satisfaction surveys		✓
ADDITIONAL DECON SERVICES				
Logistics	Specialist instrument logistics service available if required – fully compliant with current transport legislation	✓	✓	
	Internal logistics/distribution		✓	
Scantrack	Basic installation of Scantrack within the SSD	✓	✓	
	Extended installation of Scantrack to include local clinical delivery points	✓	✓	
	Advanced installation of Scantrack to include instrument-to-patient traceability	✓	✓	
Disposables supply	Cost-saving provision of disposable range including instruments, polyware, minor op packs, tray wrap, neuro supplementary disposables	✓	✓	
Instrument audit	A comprehensive review of every instrument set and contents to report on fitness-for-purpose, missing or unsafe items, deficiencies and compliance issues and provide a full instrument inventory	✓	✓	
Instrument repairs	Repair and/or servicing package for power tools, rigid endoscopes and general surgical instruments via Decon Sciences Instrument Services division	✓	✓	
Instrument purchasing schemes	Management of instrument investment projects including verification of requirements, sourcing, pricing, procurement and implementation at optimal prices	✓	✓	
Benchmarking	Comparative data to assess SSD performance/ Instrument inventory against similar organisations	✓	✓	
Laser marking	Application of laser marks to individual instruments for absolute traceability controls especially for supplementaries or neurosurgical instrumentation	✓	✓	

