

The Hidden Cost of Reuse

As medical practices are seeking to maximize efficiency, the sterilization procedure represents labor time and costs which may not be adequately captured in office cost analyses. Single-use instruments ensure 100% sterilization with 0% risk of transmission of infectious agents at an affordable cost. Consider taking inventory of the hidden costs of reuse in your practice:

Face Value Expense of Reuse	Related Expenses Rarely Considered	Cost
Initial instrument purchase	Resharpener	\$ _____
	Instrument depreciation and subsequent refurbishment	\$ _____
	Replacement costs during instrument refurbishment	\$ _____
	Delays due to replacement of damaged instrument during surgery	\$ _____
Cleaning	Cleaning materials (accessories, fluids)	\$ _____
	Inspection and replacement of materials	\$ _____
	Training of staff	\$ _____
	Time of staff	\$ _____
	Inspection of cleaning instruments	\$ _____
Reprocessing	Purchase of autoclaves	\$ _____
	Maintenance of autoclaves	\$ _____
	Indefinite usage of facilities (dependent on instrument lifespan)	\$ _____
	Time of staff managing facilities	\$ _____
Infection control	Heat/microbial indicators	\$ _____
	Storage	\$ _____
	Quarantine of instruments	\$ _____
	Premature disposal of instruments	\$ _____
	Transportation	\$ _____
	Waste disposal	\$ _____
	Replacement costs	\$ _____
	Delay costs	\$ _____
Employee injury	Blood and body fluid exposure	\$ _____
	Insurance	\$ _____
	Potential litigation	\$ _____
Patient infection	Hepatitis, HPV, HIV	\$ _____
	Litigation	\$ _____

Source: Adapted from "A Collection of European Public Reports," Malosa Medical, Ltd, July 2005.