

Site visit inspection report on compliance with HTA licensing standards  
Inspection date: **26 February 2020**



**Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital**  
HTA licensing number 11135

Licensed under the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 (as amended)

**Licensable activities carried out by the establishment**

**Licensed activities**

'E' = Establishment is licensed to carry out this activity and is currently carrying it out.

'E\*' = Establishment is licensed to carry out this activity but is not currently carrying it out.

Site	Procurement	Processing	Testing	Storage	Distribution	Import	Export
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	E	E	E*	E	E*		

### Tissue types authorised for licensed activities

Authorised = Establishment is authorised to carry out this activity and is currently carrying it out.

Authorised\* = Establishment is authorised to carry out this activity but is not currently carrying it out.

<b>Tissue Category; Tissue Type</b>	<b>Procurement</b>	<b>Processing</b>	<b>Testing</b>	<b>Storage</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>
<b>Musculoskeletal, Bone; Bone</b>	Authorised	Authorised	Authorised*	Authorised	Authorised*		
<b>Musculoskeletal, Bone; DBM</b>				Authorised			
<b>Musculoskeletal, Bone; DBM putty</b>				Authorised			
<b>Musculoskeletal, Bone; Acellular Bone</b>				Authorised			
<b>Musculoskeletal, Bone; Cancellous Bone Particles</b>				Authorised			
<b>Musculoskeletal, Tendon &amp; Ligament; Tendons</b>				Authorised			
<b>Musculoskeletal, Tendon &amp; Ligament; Nerves</b>				Authorised			

<b>Musculoskeletal, Cartilage; Cartilage</b>				Authorised*			
<b>Musculoskeletal, Cartilage; Cartilage (ATMP)</b>	Authorised*		Authorised*				

### Summary of inspection findings

The HTA found the Designated Individual (DI) and the Licence Holder (LH) to be suitable in accordance with the requirements of the legislation.

Although the HTA found that the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH; the ‘establishment’) had met the majority of the HTA’s standards, three minor shortfalls were found against standards for Governance and Quality systems.

The HTA has assessed the establishment as suitable to be licensed for the activities specified, subject to corrective and preventative actions being implemented to meet the shortfalls identified during the inspection.

## Compliance with HTA standards

### Minor Shortfalls

Standard	Inspection findings	Level of shortfall
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<b>GQ1 All aspects of the establishment's work are supported by ratified documented policies and procedures as part of the overall governance process.</b>		
<p>b) There are procedures for all licensable activities that ensure integrity of tissue and / or cells and minimise the risk of contamination.</p>	<p>Documented procedures do not provide sufficient detail to ensure that staff follow the procedure correctly and maintain the integrity of tissues. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• procured bone is transferred to another establishment to be irradiated prior to reimplantation in the patient. The related standard operating procedure (SOP) does not stipulate the temperature that the bone must be shipped at, or what type of transport box must be used. In addition, an associated Third Party Agreement (TPA) refers to the use of temperature-controlled transportation boxes maintained at -20°C, rather than the required ambient temperature for the transportation; and</li> <li>• documentation related to the transport of bone for irradiation does not specify that the bone must be accompanied by a member of staff from RNOH, although this is part of the authorised procedure. Related to this, the TPA indicates that the bone may be shipped by courier on a solo bike.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Minor</b></p>

<p>i) There are procedures to ensure that in the event of termination of activities for whatever reason, stored tissues and / or cells are transferred to another licensed establishment or establishments.</p>	<p>The establishment's current contingency plan involves transferring stored tissue to another establishment licensed by the HTA under the Human Tissue Act 2004. As the contingency establishment is not licensed for storage under the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 (as amended), any transferred material may not be suitable for subsequent release for human application.</p>	<p><b>Minor</b></p>
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<p><b>GQ4 There is a systematic and planned approach to the management of records.</b></p>		
<p>j) Records are kept of products and material coming into contact with the tissues and / or cells.</p>	<p>The establishment does not keep a record of products and material coming into contact with tissue during procurement and processing.</p> <p><b><i>Prior to the final report being published the DI submitted evidence of the actions taken in relation to this shortfall. The HTA has assessed this evidence as satisfactory and considers this standard to be now met.</i></b></p>	<p><b>Minor</b></p>

The HTA requires the DI to submit a completed corrective and preventative action (CAPA) plan setting out how the shortfalls will be addressed, within 14 days of receipt of the final report (refer to Appendix 2 for recommended timeframes within which to complete actions). The HTA will then inform the establishment of the evidence required to demonstrate that the actions agreed in the plan have been completed.

## Advice

The HTA advises the DI to consider the following to further improve practice:

Number	Standard	Advice
1.	GQ1b	The DI is advised to review SOPs and other documentation to ensure that the information they contain is up to date, relevant and correct. For example, the TPA for bone irradiation, and all policies and SOPs, refer to requirements of the Human Tissue Act 2004, but contain no reference to or the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 (as amended). In addition, the business continuity plan refers to the previous DI in several instances.
2.	GQ1g	The inspection team noted several transcription errors in the online tissue register and patient records. The DI is advised to review the procedure for transcribing information into the online tissue register, or consider implementing a process where transcribed information is reviewed for accuracy by another member of staff.
3.	GQ1s	The establishment uses a commercial courier to transport procured tissue to another establishment for processing. The tissue is accompanied by a member of RNOH staff, who takes responsibility for reporting any Serious Adverse Events and Reactions. The DI is advised to clearly document that a member of RNOH staff must accompany the tissue product to ensure that any incidents are dealt with appropriately, or to include in the courier agreement the requirement for any incidents to be reported to the DI within 24 hours of discovery.
4.	GQ3e	The DI is advised to review training records to ensure that training is documented correctly. A review of staff training records identified several Human Tissue Competency training forms that had not had the sections for trainer/trainee, date, and/or signature completed.
5.	PFE5g	The establishment has temperature mapped the -80°C tissue storage freezer. As the establishment only use a small section of the freezer the DI is advised to consider using the temperature mapping data to determine the most suitable areas of the freezer for tissue storage.

## **Background**

RNOH is an orthopaedic hospital providing neuro-musculoskeletal health care ranging from acute spinal injury or complex bone tumour treatment, to orthopaedic medicine and specialist rehabilitation for chronic back pain sufferers. RNOH has been licensed by the HTA since February 2007. This was the sixth site visit inspection of the establishment; the most recent inspection took place in January 2018. While the establishment is licensed for the activities of testing, distribution, storage of cartilage, and the procurement of cartilage as a starting material for an ATMP, these activities are not currently being undertaken and were not assessed on this occasion. The DI will inform the HTA before any of these activities recommence, and where appropriate will provide the HTA with updated SOPs, agreements, and other documentation prior to the initiation of these activities.

The majority of tissue used under the HTA licence at RNOH is purchased from third parties, but the establishment does, on occasion, procure tissue for autologous use under the HTA licence. Since the previous inspection, RNOH has formally implemented the procedure requiring the activity of processing to be added to their licence. In addition, since the previous inspection, a new DI has been appointed.

## **Description of inspection activities undertaken**

The HTA's regulatory requirements are set out in Appendix 1. The inspection team covered the following areas during the inspection:

### *Standards assessed against during inspection*

Standards covered at this inspection are listed in Appendix 3. Any standards that were not applicable to the establishment have been deleted from this table. Any standards that were applicable but were not covered during the inspection have been highlighted in grey.

### *Review of governance documentation*

The inspection team undertook a review of documentation relevant to the establishment's licensable activities. Documentation reviewed included policies and procedural documents relating to licensed activities, consent documentation, agreements with third parties, shipping and receipt records, donor-related records including records of procurement and processing, contracts relating to equipment servicing and servicing records, temperature monitoring records relating to tissue storage, minutes of governance meetings, incident logs, adverse events, audits, risk assessments and training records for establishment staff.

### *Visual inspection*

The inspection team undertook a visual inspection of areas where licensable activity is undertaken. This included areas where tissues are received and stored in both frozen and ambient conditions.

### *Audit of records*

All records associated with a range of samples were audited. Where relevant, the records audited included product receipt and shipping records, procurement records, evidence of donor consent, processing records, storage and eventual release documentation, and patient records. Where products were present at the establishment their physical storage location was compared against electronic and / or paper inventories.

Documentation related to the following products was assessed:

- five femoral heads and one humerus bone;
- one femoral strut;
- five tendons;
- one nerve graft;
- three DBM products; and
- one femoral head that was procured and processed.

Minor discrepancies were noted related to record keeping (see *Advice*, item 2), however full traceability was maintained.

### *Meetings with establishment staff*

Discussions were held with staff carrying out processes under the licence. This included discussions with the DI (a Consultant Anaesthetist), a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon involved in the consent taking process, and the Operation's Manager & Clinical Governance and Quality Lead. Discussions covered the receipt, storage, and release of tissue, consent taking procedures, processing and quality systems.

**Report sent to DI for factual accuracy: 02 April 2020**

**Report returned from DI: 06 May 2020**

**Final report issued: 07 May 2020**

## **Appendix 1: The HTA's regulatory requirements**

The HTA must assure itself that the DI, Licence Holder, premises and practices are suitable.

The statutory duties of the DI are set down in Section 18 of the Human Tissue Act 2004. They are to secure that:

- the other persons to whom the licence applies are suitable persons to participate in the carrying-on of the licensed activity;
- suitable practices are used in the course of carrying on that activity; and
- the conditions of the licence are complied with.

The HTA developed its licensing standards with input from its stakeholders. They are designed to ensure the safe and ethical use of human tissue and the dignified and respectful treatment of the deceased. The HTA inspects the establishments it licences against four groups of standards:

- consent
- governance and quality systems
- premises facilities and equipment
- disposal.

This is an exception-based report: only those standards that have been assessed as not met are included. Where the HTA determines that a standard is not met, the level of the shortfall is classified as 'Critical', 'Major' or 'Minor' (see Appendix 2: Classification of the level of shortfall). Where HTA standards are fully met, but the HTA has identified an area of practice that could be further improved, advice is given to the DI.

Reports of HTA inspections carried out from 1 November 2010 are published on the HTA's website.

## **Appendix 2: Classification of the level of shortfall (HA)**

Where the HTA determines that a licensing standard is not met, the improvements required will be stated and the level of the shortfall will be classified as 'Critical', 'Major' or 'Minor'. Where the HTA is not presented with evidence that an establishment meets the requirements of an expected standard, it works on the premise that a lack of evidence indicates a shortfall.

The action an establishment will be required to make following the identification of a shortfall is based on the HTA's assessment of risk of harm and/or a breach of the Human Tissue Act 2004, Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007, or associated Directions.

### **1. Critical shortfall:**

A shortfall which poses a significant direct risk of causing harm to a recipient patient or to a living donor,

*or*

A number of 'major' shortfalls, none of which is critical on its own, but viewed cumulatively represent a systemic failure and therefore are considered 'critical'.

A critical shortfall may result in one or more of the following:

- A notice of proposal being issued to revoke the licence
- Some or all of the licensable activity at the establishment ceasing with immediate effect until a corrective action plan is developed, agreed by the HTA and implemented.
- A notice of suspension of licensable activities
- Additional conditions being proposed
- Directions being issued requiring specific action to be taken straightaway

### **2. Major shortfall:**

A non-critical shortfall.

A shortfall in the carrying out of licensable activities which poses an indirect risk to the safety of a donor or a recipient

*or*

A shortfall in the establishment's quality and safety procedures which poses an indirect risk to the safety of a donor or a recipient;

*or*

A shortfall which indicates a major deviation from the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 or the HTA Directions;

*or*

A shortfall which indicates a failure to carry out satisfactory procedures for the release of tissues and cells or a failure on the part of the designated individual to fulfil his or her legal duties;

*or*

A combination of several 'minor' shortfalls, none of which is major on its own, but which, viewed cumulatively, could constitute a major shortfall by adversely affecting the quality and safety of the tissues and cells.

In response to a major shortfall, an establishment is expected to implement corrective and preventative actions within 1-2 months of the issue of the final inspection report. Major shortfalls pose a higher level of risk and therefore a shorter deadline is given, compared to minor shortfalls, to ensure the level of risk is reduced in an appropriate timeframe.

### **3. Minor shortfall:**

A shortfall which cannot be classified as either critical or major and, which can be addressed by further development by the establishment.

This category of shortfall requires the development of a corrective action plan, the results of which will usually be assessed by the HTA either by desk based review or at the time of the next inspection.

In response to a minor shortfall, an establishment is expected to implement corrective and preventative actions within 3-4 months of the

issue of the final inspection report.

### **Follow up actions**

A template corrective and preventative action plan will be sent as a separate Word document with the final inspection report. Establishments must complete this template and return it to the HTA within 14 days of the issue of the final report.

Based on the level of the shortfall, the HTA will consider the most suitable type of follow-up of the completion of the

and preventative action plan. This may include a combination of

- a follow-up site-visit inspection
- a request for information that shows completion of actions
- monitoring of the action plan completion
- follow up at next routine site-visit inspection.

After an assessment of your proposed action plan you will be notified of the follow-up approach the HTA will take.

## Appendix 3: Applicable HTA Standards

### Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 Standards

<b>Consent</b>
<b>C1 Consent is obtained in accordance with the requirements of the HT Act 2004, the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 and as set out in the HTA's Codes of Practice.</b>
a) If the establishment acts as a procurer of tissues and / or cells, there is an established process for acquiring donor consent which meets the requirements of the HT Act 2004 the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 (Q&S Regulations) and the HTA's Codes of Practice
c) The establishment or the third party's procedure on obtaining donor consent includes how potential donors are identified and who is able to take consent.
d) Consent forms comply with the HTA Codes of Practice.
e) Completed consent forms are included in records and are made accessible to those using or releasing tissue and / or cells for a Scheduled Purpose.
<b>C2 Information about the consent process is provided and in a variety of formats.</b>
a) The procedure on obtaining consent details what information will be provided to donors. As a minimum, the information specified by Directions 002/2018 is included.
b) If third parties act as procurers of tissues and / or cells, the third party agreement details what information will be provided to donors. As a minimum, the information specified by Directions 002/2018 is included.
c) Information is available in suitable formats and there is access to independent interpreters when required.
d) There are procedures to ensure that information is provided to the donor or donor's family by trained personnel.

**C3 Staff involved in seeking consent receive training and support in the implications and essential requirements of taking consent.**

a) Staff involved in obtaining consent are provided with training on how to take informed consent in accordance with the requirements of the HT Act 2004 and Code of Practice on Consent.

b) Training records are kept demonstrating attendance at training on consent.

**Governance and Quality**

**GQ1 All aspects of the establishment's work are supported by ratified documented policies and procedures as part of the overall governance process.**

a) There is an organisational chart clearly defining the lines of accountability and reporting relationships.

b) There are procedures for all licensable activities that ensure integrity of tissue and / or cells and minimise the risk of contamination.

c) There are regular governance meetings, for example health and safety, risk management and clinical governance committees, which are recorded by agendas and minutes.

d) There is a document control system to ensure that changes to documents are reviewed, approved, dated and documented by an authorised person and only current documents are in use.

e) There are procedures for tissue and / or cell procurement, which ensure the safety of living donors.

g) There are procedures to ensure that an authorised person verifies that tissues and / or cells received by the establishment meet required specifications.

h) There are procedures for the management and quarantine of non-conforming consignments or those with incomplete test results, to ensure no risk of cross contamination.

i) There are procedures to ensure tissues and / or cells are not released from quarantine until verification has been completed and recorded.
j) There are procedures detailing the critical materials and reagents used and where applicable, materials and reagents meet the standards laid down by the European directives on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices.
k) There is a procedure for handling returned products.
l) There are procedures to ensure that in the event of termination of activities for whatever reason, stored tissues and / or cells are transferred to another licensed establishment or establishments.
m) The criteria for allocating tissues and / or cells to patients and health care institutions are documented and made available to these parties on request.
o) There is a complaints system in place.
p) There are written agreements with third parties whenever an activity takes place that has the potential to influence the quality and safety of human tissues and / or cells.
q) There is a record of agreements established with third parties.
r) Third party agreements specify the responsibilities of the third party and meet the requirements set out in Directions 002/2018.
s) Third party agreements specify that the third party will inform the establishment in the event of a serious adverse reaction or event.
t) There are procedures for the re-provision of service in an emergency.
<b>GQ2 There is a documented system of quality management and audit.</b>
a) There is a quality management system which ensures continuous and systematic improvement.

b) There is an internal audit system for all licensable activities.

c) An audit is conducted in an independent manner at least every two years to verify compliance with protocols and HTA standards, and any findings and corrective actions are documented.

d) Processes affecting the quality and safety of tissues and / or cells are validated and undergo regular evaluation to ensure they continue to achieve the intended results.

**GQ3 Staff are appropriately qualified and trained in techniques relevant to their work and are continuously updating their skills.**

a) There are clearly documented job descriptions for all staff.

b) There are orientation and induction programmes for new staff.

c) There are continuous professional development (CPD) plans for staff and attendance at training is recorded.

d) There is annual documented mandatory training (e.g. health and safety and fire).

e) Personnel are trained in all tasks relevant to their work and their competence is recorded.

f) There is a documented training programme that ensures that staff have adequate knowledge of the scientific and ethical principles relevant to their work, and the regulatory context.

g) There is a documented training programme that ensures that staff understand the organisational structure and the quality systems used within the establishment.

h) There is a system of staff appraisal.

i) Where appropriate, staff are registered with a professional or statutory body.

j) There are training and reference manuals available.

k) The establishment is sufficiently staffed to carry out its activities.

**GQ4 There is a systematic and planned approach to the management of records.**

a) There are procedures for the creation, identification, maintenance, access, amendment, retention and destruction of records.

b) There is a system for the regular audit of records and their content to check for completeness, legibility and accuracy and to resolve any discrepancies found.

c) Written records are legible and indelible. Records kept in other formats such as computerised records are stored on a validated system.

d) There is a system for back-up / recovery in the event of loss of computerised records.

e) The establishment keeps a register of the types and quantities of tissues and / or cells that are procured, tested, preserved, processed, stored and distributed or otherwise disposed of, and on the origin and destination of tissues and cells intended for human application.

g) There is a system to ensure records are secure and that donor confidentiality is maintained in accordance with Directions 002/2018.

h) Raw data which are critical to the safety and quality of tissues and cells are kept for 10 years after the use, expiry date or disposal of tissues and / or cells.

i) The minimum data to ensure traceability from donor to recipient as required by Directions 002/2018 are kept for 30 years after the use, expiry or disposal of tissues and / or cells.

j) Records are kept of products and material coming into contact with the tissues and / or cells.

l) The establishment records the acceptance or rejection of tissue and / or cells that it receives and in the case of rejection why this rejection occurred.

m) In the event of termination of activities of the establishment a contingency plan to ensure records of traceability are maintained for 10 or 30 years as required.

**GQ5 There are documented procedures for donor selection and exclusion, including donor criteria.**

a) Donors are selected either by the establishment or the third party acting on its behalf in accordance with the criteria required by Directions 002/2018.

d) There is a system in place either at the establishment or at a third party acting on its behalf to record results of donor selection and associated tests.

**GQ6 A coding and records system facilitates traceability of tissues and / or cells, ensuring a robust audit trail.**

a) There is a donor identification system which assigns a unique code to each donation and to each of the products associated with it.

b) An audit trail is maintained, which includes details of when the tissues and / or cells were acquired and from where, the uses to which the tissues and / or cells were put, when the tissues and / or cells were transferred elsewhere and to whom.

c) The establishment has procedures to ensure that tissues and / or cells imported, procured, processed, stored, distributed and exported are traceable from donor to recipient and vice versa.

d) The requirements of the Single European Code are adhered to as set out in Directions 002/2018.

**GQ7 There are systems to ensure that all adverse events, reactions and/or incidents are investigated promptly.**

a) There are procedures for the identification, reporting, investigation and recording of adverse events and reactions, including documentation of any corrective or preventative actions.

b) There is a system to receive and distribute national and local information (e.g. HTA regulatory alerts) and notify the HTA and other establishments as necessary of serious adverse events or reactions.

c) The responsibilities of personnel investigating adverse events and reactions are clearly defined.

d) There are procedures to identify and decide the fate of tissues and / or cells affected by an adverse event, reaction or deviation from the required quality and safety standards.

e) In the event of a recall, there are personnel authorised within the establishment to assess the need for a recall and if appropriate initiate and coordinate a recall.

f) There is an effective, documented recall procedure which includes a description of responsibilities and actions to be taken in the event of a recall including notification of the HTA and pre-defined times in which actions must be taken.

g) Establishments distributing tissue and / or cells provide information to end users on how to report a serious adverse event or reaction and have agreements with them specifying that they will report these events or reactions.

h) Establishments distributing tissues and / or cells have systems to receive notifications of serious adverse events and reactions from end users and notify the HTA.

**GQ8 Risk assessments of the establishment's practices and processes are completed regularly and are recorded and monitored appropriately.**

a) There are documented risk assessments for all practices and processes.

b) Risk assessments are reviewed regularly, as a minimum annually or when any changes are made that may affect the quality and safety of tissues and cells.

c) Staff can access risk assessments and are made aware of local hazards at training.

d) A documented risk assessment is carried out to decide the fate of any tissue and / or cells stored prior to the introduction of a new donor selection criteria or a new processing step, which enhances the quality and safety of tissue and / or cells.

## Premises, Facilities and Equipment

### **PFE1 The premises are fit for purpose.**

- a) A risk assessment has been carried out of the premises to ensure that they are fit for purpose.
- b) There are procedures to review and maintain the safety of staff, visitors and patients.
- c) The premises have sufficient space for procedures to be carried out safely and efficiently.
- e) There are procedures to ensure that the premises are secure and confidentiality is maintained.
- f) There is access to a nominated, registered medical practitioner and / or a scientific advisor to provide advice and oversee the establishment's medical and scientific activities.

### **PFE2 Environmental controls are in place to avoid potential contamination.**

- a) Tissues and / or cells stored in quarantine are stored separately from tissue and / or cells that have been released from quarantine.
- b) Where processing of tissues and / or cells involves exposure to the environment, it occurs in an appropriate, monitored environment as required by Directions 002/2018.
- c) There are procedures for cleaning and decontamination.
- d) Staff are provided with appropriate protective clothing and equipment that minimise the risk of contamination of tissue and / or cells and the risk of infection to themselves.

### **PFE3 There are appropriate facilities for the storage of tissues and / or cells, consumables and records.**

- a) Tissues, cells, consumables and records are stored in secure environments and precautions are taken to minimise risk of damage, theft or contamination.

b) There are systems to deal with emergencies on a 24 hour basis.

c) Tissues and / or cells are stored in controlled, monitored and recorded conditions that maintain tissue and / or cell integrity.

d) There is a documented, specified maximum storage period for tissues and / or cells.

**PFE4 Systems are in place to protect the quality and integrity of tissues and / or cells during transport and delivery to its destination.**

b) There are procedures for the transport of tissues and / or cells which reflect identified risks associated with transport.

c) There is a system to ensure that traceability of tissues and / or cells is maintained during transport.

d) Records are kept of transportation and delivery.

e) Tissues and / or cells are packaged and transported in a manner and under conditions that minimise the risk of contamination and ensure their safety and quality.

f) There are third party agreements with courier or transport companies to ensure that any specific transport conditions required are maintained.

g) Critical transport conditions required to maintain the properties of tissue and / or cells are defined and documented.

h) Packaging and containers used for transportation are validated to ensure they are fit for purpose.

i) Primary packaging containing tissues and / or cells is labelled with the information required by Directions.

j) Shipping packaging containing tissues and / or cells is labelled with the information required by Directions.

**PFE5 Equipment is appropriate for use, maintained, quality assured, validated and where appropriate monitored.**

a) Critical equipment and technical devices are identified, validated, regularly inspected and records are maintained.

b) Critical equipment is maintained and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
c) Equipment affecting critical processes and storage parameters is identified and monitored to detect malfunctions and defects and procedures are in place to take any corrective actions.
d) New and repaired equipment is validated before use and this is documented.
e) There are documented agreements with maintenance companies.
f) Cleaning, disinfection and sanitation of critical equipment is performed regularly and this is recorded.
g) Instruments and devices used for procurement are sterile, validated and regularly maintained.
h) Users have access to instructions for equipment and receive training in the use of equipment and maintenance where appropriate.
i) Staff are aware of how to report an equipment problem.
j) For each critical process, the materials, equipment and personnel are identified and documented.
k) There are contingency plans for equipment failure.

<b>Disposal</b>
<b>D1 There is a clear and sensitive policy for disposing of tissues and / or cells.</b>
a) The disposal policy complies with HTA's Codes of Practice.
b) The disposal procedure complies with Health and Safety recommendations.
c) There is a documented procedure on disposal which ensures that there is no cross contamination.

**D2 The reasons for disposal and the methods used are carefully documented.**

a) There is a procedure for tracking the disposal of tissue and / or cells that details the method and reason for disposal.

b) Disposal arrangements reflect (where applicable) the consent given for disposal.