

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
JOAN KNECHEL CANCER CENTER  
EYE SHIELD CLEANING**

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**SCOPE**

Patients receiving radiation therapy treatment who need the use of the eye shield to protect their eye.

**PURPOSE**

To establish a guideline for the proper cleaning of eye shields utilized within the department as recommended by the manufacturer.

**POLICY**

Staff members utilizing eye shields for patient treatments shall be instructed on the care of the eye shield prior, during and post treatment, in order to maintain the eye shield integrity and asepsis.

**PROCEDURE**

1. The Radiation Oncologist shall determine if the Tungsten Eye Shield MT-T-45 is to be inserted internally underneath the eyelid or placed externally over the eyelid.
2. The Eye Shield should be Gas Sterilized prior to and after completion of final treatment. (Note: Gas Sterilization is available through the Surgical Department and a contract with St. Clare's Dover Campus). **DO NOT AUTOCLAVE EYE SHIELD.**
3. If the Eye Shield is used on the same patient, or used externally on different patients, it should be washed thoroughly with hot water and hospital grade soap, scrubbed with a nonmetallic brush, and rinsed with distilled water after each use. **DO NOT USE ALCOHOL TO CLEAN THE EYE SHIELD.**
4. When the Eye Shield is used **internally** between different patients, it needs to be gas sterilized. **DO NOT USE ALCOHOL TO CLEAN THE EYE SHIELD.**
5. Store the Eye Shield in the original container when not in use to prevent damage. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight, extreme heat, cold or humidity.

**REFERENCES**

Manufacturer's instructions with the Eye Shield.