



ADVICE NOTICE: Considerations regarding equipment donations

Background

IPEM is aware that some hospitals are being offered donations of ventilators and other equipment in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Information

Considerations for equipment donations:

The purpose of this briefing is to remind clinical engineers of factors to consider when considering whether or not to accept an equipment donation. Many hospitals have relevant policies and procedures which should be adhered to when going through the necessary steps outlined below.

1. When hospitals receive an offer of donated equipment, clinical engineers should first assess its suitability for use in the NHS. This will include reviewing its previous usage, service history and overall condition and whether the item complies with regulatory approval.
2. Donated equipment should only be accepted where the recipients have the capability to decontaminate, support, service and use the item safely.
3. The receiving organisation must fully decontaminate the item before any work is undertaken on it. Particular care will need to be taken when cleaning used items that were used on highly infectious patients or were last operated outside of the normal hospital environment. Advice from infection control specialists and from manufacturers may be necessary to provide adequate decontamination and consequent assurance of equipment safety.
4. A full service and acceptance check must be performed as set out in the manufacturer's instructions.
5. All functions must be checked to verify that the equipment performs within specification, as recommended by the manufacturer. Any faults found should be remedied.
6. Safety testing must be carried out to the appropriate standard.

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