



# New Zealand Sterile Services Association

29 September 2014

Central Sterile Supply Department  
Hutt Hospital  
Private Bag 31907  
LOWER HUTT 5040

Hi Robyn

**RE Surgical Tray Weights**

The NZSSA has been reviewing the work you have been undertaking around the issue of "instrument crate weights".

Further to the NZSSA letter of 2013 regarding this matter, I would like to inform you that the NZSSA continues to fully support and endorse the project.

The subject of the excessive weights of surgical instrument sets regularly being handled by sterile services personnel around New Zealand is constantly being discussed with concern expressed on the potential for musculoskeletal injury as well as a growing frustration at the lack of action on behalf of the employer and medical companies.

Our members will be delighted, and I am sure eager, to see the weight limit of 7kg be put into place.

As an association we offer any assistance we can or is required, to lobby the loan set companies and our employers to ensure that the desired outcome is achieved.

If you require any assistance from the NZSSA please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Kind regards

Shelagh Thomas  
RN, BN, Reg Sterile Technician  
President  
New Zealand Sterile Services Association



# New Zealand Sterile Services Association

21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2013

CSSD  
Auckland City Hospital  
Building 32 Level 1  
Private Bag 92024  
Auckland

Subject: Surgical tray weights

Hi Robyn

I am the newly appointed secretary of the New Zealand Sterile Services Association (NZSSA) and was fortunate enough to attend your presentation at our annual conference in Dunedin on November of 2012 which I found very informative.

The subject of the excessive weights of surgical instrument sets regularly being handled by sterile services personnel around New Zealand is constantly being discussed with concern expressed on the potential for musculoskeletal injury as well as a growing frustration at the lack of action on behalf of the employer and medical companies.

I was therefore delighted to see that the issue of tray weights was being looked into and that efforts were being made to try and bring a level of control through regulating weights and formulating a working policy that could be applied across New Zealand.

On behalf of the NZSSA and its members I would like to express our full support to move this issue forward in order to bring about regulatory control and reduce the potential risks of injury to our members.

If you require any assistance from the NZSSA please do not hesitate in contacting me. In the meantime the association will continue to look ways in which to make tray weights more manageable and I am more than happy to tie this into your work. I would likewise appreciate if to can include in correspondence on this issue.

Kind Regards

Mark

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