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| Name of Policy: <u>Storage of Sterile Supplies</u> | |  | | | | |
| Policy Number: 3364-124-21 | | | | | | |
| Department: Nursing Service/Operating Room | | | | | | |
| Approving Officer: Director Surgical Services | | | | | | |
| Responsible Agent: Chief Nursing Officer | | | | | | |
| Scope: Operating Room (OR)/Perioperative Services | | | | | | |
| | | Effective Date: 12/31/2022 Initial Effective Date: 6/1990 | | | | |
| <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> New policy proposal</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy</td> </tr> </table> | | | <input type="checkbox"/> New policy proposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy |
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(A) Policy Statement

Sterilized articles should be handled with great care and as little as possible. They should be stored in a well-ventilated area with controlled temperature and humidity (65° - 72° F or 18° - 22° C, relative humidity 20-60%).

(B) Purpose of Policy

To reduce hazard of infection for OR patients, and to reduce loss of inventory due to inadvertent contamination.

(C) Procedure

1. Movement of sterile supplies within the operating room department will follow a well-delineated traffic pattern.
2. Closed cabinet storage is preferred. If open storage is used it must be 8-10 inches from the floor, and 18 inches below the ceiling.
3. Sterile supplies are stored on separate shelves from clean, non-sterile supplies.
4. Storage conditions are maintained to minimize dust, moisture, and contamination.
5. All wrapped sterilized items must be allowed to cool completely on an open sterilizer rack before handling.
6. Any sterilized package that is torn, dropped, or encounters moisture, is considered contaminated.

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| Approved by: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <u>/s/</u> Michelle Mallett, MSN, RN, CNOR Director Surgical Services </div> <div> <u> </u> Date </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div> <u>/s/</u> Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC Chief Nursing Officer Review: Policy & Standard Committee, 10/12, 4/16, 8/19, 12/22 Revision completed by: Greg Shannon MSN, RN. </div> <div> <u> </u> Date </div> </div> | | Review/Revision Date: 8/93 6/96 2/99 7/2002 7/2005 6/10/2008 9/2011 10/26/12 10/10/14 2.1.2016 8/1/2019 12/31/2022 |
| Policies Superseded by This Policy: 4-21 | | |
| Next Review Date: 12/2025 | | |

It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.