


<b>Name of Policy:</b> <u>Maintaining the Sterility of an Unused Operating Room with Open Sterile Supplies Present</u> <b>Policy Number:</b> 3364-124-71 <b>Department:</b> Nursing Service/Operating Room <b>Approving Officer:</b> Director Surgical Services <b>Responsible Agent:</b> Chief Nursing Officer <b>Scope:</b> Operating Room/Perioperative Services	 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER</b>  <b>Effective Date:</b> 12/1/2022 Initial Effective Date: 5/26/2009				
<table> <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

The sterility of an open sterile field is event related. To increase patient safety and decrease supply waste in the OR, a surgical sterile field set-up may be used if the sterility of the field and opened sterile items can be guaranteed.

### (B) Purpose of Policy

To provide a process to ensure the sterility of open sterile items and the open sterile field in an OR that is not in use.

### (D) Procedure

1. In an OR that is not in use but in which sterile items have been opened and set up in anticipation of a surgical procedure (i.e. surgical delay), both OR doors will be taped off or blocked with the Retract-a-Belt, with a sign indicating the presence of sterile items on the door to discourage entry.
2. Sterile fields must be covered with appropriate covering drapes applied using aseptic technique. The sterile field may be covered with the two “cuffed” drape method or with a drape designed for the purposes of covering a sterile field.
3. Sterile fields should be opened and prepared as close as possible to the time of use. If the integrity of the sterile field is preserved and verified, there is no specific amount of time that the OR can remain open and subsequently used. The decision to tear down an open, unused OR will be made by the Operations Supervisor or designee.

Reference: Guideline for sterile technique. In: Guidelines for Perioperative Practice.  
 Denver, CO: AORN, INC; 2019:931-972.

<p><b>Approved by:</b></p> <p>_____        /s/ Michelle Mallette, MSN, RN, CNOR        Director Surgical Services</p> <p>_____        Date</p> <p>_____        /s/ Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC        Chief Nursing Officer</p> <p>_____        Date</p> <p>Review: Policy&amp; Standard Committee, 12/22        Revision completed by: Greg Shannon, MSN, RN</p>	<p>Review/Revision Date:</p> <p>2.1.2016        8/1/2019        12/1/2022</p>
<p><b>Policies Superseded by This Policy:</b> New</p>	<p><b>Next Review Date:</b> 12/2025</p>

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