(A) Policy Statement

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

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide a process to ensure 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 specified 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Approved by:</th>
<th>Review/Revision Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/s/ Monecca Smith MSN, RN</td>
<td>2.1.2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate VP Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)</td>
<td>8/1/2019</td>
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Review: Policy & Standard Committee,  
Revision completed by: Heidi Pitzen MSN, BBA, RN, CNOR  
Perioperative Educator

| Next Review Date: | 8/2022 |

Policies Superseded by This Policy: New

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