

STERILE PROCESSING PROCEDURE GENERAL

Procedure SP1-6: High-level disinfecting protocol



Policy Number Superseded:

Responsibility: Operations Manager,
Sterile Processing

Effective Date:
December 2025

Purpose of Procedure: Protocol for testing of
glutaraldehyde solution and for high-level
disinfecting of instruments.

Initial Effective Date:
June 2014

Procedure:

(A) Glutaraldehyde daily testing.

- (1) Ensure that the solution to be tested has been activated according to labeling instructions.
- (2) Enter date bottle opened in solution log sheet.
- (3) Pour desired amount of solution into designated receptacle.
- (4) Obtain an indicator strip and dip indicating pad in activated solution for 2 seconds, then remove. *(Do not dip pad for longer than 2 seconds or swirl strip in solution.)*
- (5) Remove excess solution from the pad by standing strip upright on paper towel. *(Do not shake strip after removal.)*
- (6) Read the results of the color reaction exactly after 60 seconds and discard the strip. *(Disregard the top 2mm of pad which may show yellow.)*

An effective concentration will turn the pad completely purple. If any yellow appears on the pad (apart from the 2mm at the top of the pad) the solution is below the minimum effective concentration (MEC) and must be discarded.

(B) Solution log sheet.

All of the following information must be entered into the log sheet for each day's test.

- (1) Department.
- (2) Product used.
- (3) Check "tee basin" or "blue basin".
- (4) Test date.
- (5) Date solution activated or opened.
- (6) Date activated/opened solution expires (14 days.)
- (7) Expiration date on test strip bottle.
- (8) Date the test strip bottle was opened.
- (9) Date the test strip bottle expires after opening (90 days from opening.)
- (10) Test time and MEC results (+ = Pass and - = Fail).
- (11) Temperature of solution. Minimum temperature must be 77°F.
- (12) Action taken if MEC fails. Solution is discarded and new solution is activated.
- (13) Solution tester's initials.

(C) Instrument high-level disinfection or sterilization.

- (1) Thoroughly clean instruments in approved detergent or enzyme cleaner according to manufacturer's instructions. All bio burden must be removed from the instrument surface and lumens.
- (2) Thoroughly rinse instrument surface and lumens with fresh tap water.
- (3) Thoroughly dry instruments to be disinfected using a lint-free towel.
- (4) Immerse instruments in activated solution for prescribed time.
- (5) Follow all manufacturer's instructions for solution.

HLD: (45 minutes.) Lumened instruments should be flushed with the disinfecting solution using a sterile syringe.

STERILIZATION: (10 hours.) Lumened instruments should be flushed with the disinfecting solution using a sterile syringe.

- (6) Remove instrument promptly after process time is complete.
- (7) Thoroughly rinse the instruments and flush lumens in three separate copious volumes of water. Each rinse should be a minimum of 1 minute in duration. Use fresh portions of water for each rinse.

Glutaraldehyde solution must be discarded 14 days after activation.

Approved by:
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Operations Supervisor, Sterile Processing

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