

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: PEEL POUCHES

PROCEDURE NO: SP3-1

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Single instruments or small individual items which must be sterilized separately will be packaged in either a paper/plastic peel pouch, or Tyvek peel pouch.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To provide a storable packaged item, for sterilization.

PROCEDURE

1. Select correct peel pouch for item to be sterilized. Items to be steam sterilized will use paper/plastic pouches. Items to be gas plasma sterilized will use Tyvek pouches.
2. Pick the right sized peel pouch. The item to be sterilized must fit comfortably within the pouch.
3. Place a small piece of autoclave tape or gas plasma tape in the upper left-hand corner of the pouch. Place a steam or gas plasma chemical indicator face up, inside the pouch.
4. Place the bar code label on the peel pouch, below the tape.
5. Steam sterilizable items designated for use in the O.R. will be doubled packaged. Place the inner pouch with the opening tab on the same side as the opening tab of the outside pouch and so that the item inside is visible. Place a chemical indicator face up, inside of the inner pouch.
6. Steam sterilizable items designated for clinic (non-OR) use will be single packaged.
7. Gas plasma items may only be single peel pouched.
8. Heat-seal the peel pouch using the heat sealer designated for either the steam or gas plasma pouch.

Sealing a gas plasma pouch using the steam pouch heat sealer will melt the pouch. The gas plasma heat sealer will not seal a steam designated pouch.

Reviewed/Revised
2010, 2014, 8/9/2018
1/2020