

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: OPERATION OF STEAM STERILIZERS IN SPD PROCEDURE NO: SP3-3

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Whenever possible, steam sterilization will be used to sterilize surgical instrumentation.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To provide an effective sterilization method for surgical instruments able to withstand high temperatures.

PROCEDURE

I: LOAD SETUP

Inspect packaging to ensure that peel pouches are correctly sealed, wrapped instruments are properly wrapped and containerized instruments are properly packaged.

Make sure that all items to be sterilized are placed on the sterilizer cart with a gap between them wide enough to slide your hand in between the trays.

Largest, heaviest trays will be loaded on the bottom back first
All solid pans will be on the bottom rack

Place a BI challenge pack next to the chemical integrator challenge pack.

Place a sterilizer load sticker on all items to be sterilized.

The sterilizer load sticker contains the following data:

(Julian Date, Sterilizer #, Load #, Calendar Date)

II: RECORDING in SPM

In SPM, click “Sterilizer Loads.”

Choose the sterilizer you intend to use.

Click “Start New Load.”

Choose the cycle you are to run.

Click “Load Contents” and scan all items to be sterilized.

Click “Tests.”

Choose BI and enter the lot number of the BI.

Choose “Integrator.”

If a drain check is required, (3rd cycle of the day) click “Additional Test” then click “Drain Check.”

Make sure you actually check the drain.

Print the load contents report and place a load sticker in the top center of the page.

Click ‘Finish And Mark Cycle As Started.’

III: RUNNING THE LOAD

Verify that items on sterilizer cart match exactly what is listed on the contents sheet. Correct any errors.

Load sterilizer cart into sterilizer using caution as sterilizer is hot then close the door.

Choose the cycle and press start.

Make sure your chosen machine cycle matches the cycle chosen in SPM.

Sterilizer tape will print at beginning of load.

Place a load sticker at the top of the sterilizer tape. Initial the top of tape.

Attach Contents Sheet to sterilizer cart handle.

IV: COMPLETEION OF LOAD

When load is complete:

- a. Unlock door & allow residual steam to vent, (approximately 10 seconds).
- b. While steam is venting, verify that sterilization parameters were met:

Read "Sterilize time." Write the time on tape next to printed time.

(If the time is below the cycle time requirements, the entire load is to be rewrapped and resterilized.)

Read "Temp Min." Write the temp on the tape next to the printed temp.

(If the minimum temp is below the cycle temp requirements, the entire load is to be rewrapped and resterilized.)

If all parameters have been met, initial the bottom of tape. This indicates your acknowledgement and approval that the cycle has passed all parameters.

Opening the sterilizer door

Open door and remove Biological and chemical test packs. **(BE VERY CAREFUL.)**
Process both according to procedure.

Remove load and verify tape color changes on packages.

When the load is cool to the touch:

Verify that there are no wet packages. If there are, alert a Surgical Tech and inspect all packages that were in that load. All wet packages must be torn down, rewrapped and resterilized.

After testing the temperature of one pack per level and it is at or below 75 F, the load may now be transferred to the Instrument delivery cart.

Reviewed/Revised:

2006, 2007, 2010, 2014, 8-2018

12/2020