

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: USE OF CHEMICAL INDICATORS
AND INTEGRATORS**

PROCEDURE NO: SP3-6

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

1. SPD and the O.R. will place a (class 5) integrating chemical indicator inside each package/tray to be STEAM sterilized.
2. An integrator challenge test pack will be used on all steam cycles in SPD.
3. The Sterile Processing Department will place a Class 3, single-parameter, chemical sterilization indicator strip inside each packaged item to be sterilized by hydrogen peroxide plasma, STERRAD.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To provide positive assurance that each package sterilized has been subjected to the proper sterilization conditions.

PROCEDURE

1. Place one chemical sterilization indicator for STERRAD inside each peel pouch, disposable wrapped and sterilization container to be sterilized using the STERRAD sterilizer.
2. Place a steam sterilization “Integrator” inside each peel pouch, one integrator in the center of all instrument trays. On multi-level trays place an integrator on each level and one on each count sheet within the tray to be STEAM sterilized.
3. For paper/plastic pouches, place the indicator/integrator so it does not touch the instrument but so it can be seen from the outside.
4. The steam integrator will indicate pass or fail by a black bar on the integrator. The black bar on the integrator must indicate “ACCEPT” on the integrator. An integrator monitors time and temperature.
5. Hydrogen peroxide plasma indicator turns yellow upon proper exposure. An indicator monitors exposure only.
6. Integrators which show a Fail, indicate that the item is not sterile and must be repackaged and resterilized. Likewise, integrator from test packs which show a Fail, indicate that the entire load has failed.

Review/Revised

1980 1993 1986 1989 1992 1995 1998
2001 2004 2007 2010 2014 8/2018
12/2020