THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER
STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Sterilization Monitoring in the OR **Procedure No: SP7-2**

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Routine sterilizer efficacy monitoring of pre-vacuum Immediate-Use Steam Sterilization will be run daily.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

Per AAMI ST79, all steam sterilizers should be routinely tested using a Bowie Dick test and Biological Indicator (BI) Process Challenge Device (PCD).

PROCEDURE

1. A leak test and Bowie Dick test will be performed prior to BI.
2. A BI challenge pack is used to conduct daily routine efficacy monitoring of a 6 minute 270°F/132°C pre-vacuum immediate-use steam sterilization cycle.
3. The Bi challenge pack is placed over the drain on the sterilizer rack.
4. The sterilization cycle is run.
5. When the cycle is complete, the **BI** and **CI** are retrieved. The **BI** is allowed to cool. The **BI** is then identified with the appropriate sterilizer and cycle information, activated, and incubated in the designated incubator (3M Auto-reader) according to instructions provided in the IFU.
6. A positive control **BI** having the same lot # as the test BI is incubated each day.
7. The result of the control **BI** is recorded. The Control **BI** must show a fluorescent positive result (+ symbol on the Auto-reader 490 LCD display) within 24 min. to ensure the test **BI** result is valid.
8. The final negative reading (- symbol on the Auto-reader LCD display) of the test **BI** is made at 1 hour and indicates a successful sterilization process. The **CI** must indicate a Pass. The test **BI** result and chemical integrator result are documented.
9. Any positive result for a test **BI** and/or failing **CI** result must be reported to the SPD Manager immediately for further investigation and/or action.

References

1. ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017 *Comprehensive guide to steam sterilization and sterility assurance in healthcare facilities.*
2. Association of perioperative Registered Nurses. *Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices, 2013 Edition.* Recommended Practices for Sterilization, Recommendations VII and XX.
3. 3M™ Attest™ Super Rapid Readout Biological Indicator 1492V – manufacturer's written IFU.

Reviewed/Revised
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