

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE USE STEAM STERILIZATION  
IN THE OR**

**PROCEDURE NO: SP7-6**

## **PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

Immediate use steam sterilization (**IUSS**) shall be kept to a minimum. It shall be used only when there is insufficient time to process instruments by the preferred wrapped or container method. Steam sterilization in the O.R. will be accomplished utilizing closed sterilization containers designed for IUSS. Open tray sterilization will be used only for those instruments or sets which cannot fit into the designated sterilization containers.

## **PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE**

To provide a method of sterilization of instruments and instrument sets, intended for immediate use only. To ensure appropriate steam sterilization guidelines and evidence-based practices are adhered to in the Perioperative setting.

## **PROCEDURE**

**IUSS** is broadly defined as the shortest possible time between a sterilized item's removal from the sterilizer and its specific transfer to the sterile field. A sterilized item intended for immediate use is not stored for future use, nor held from one case to another.

### CLOSED TRAY STERILIZATION

1. All instruments or supplies to be steam sterilized must be completely free of all bioburden.
2. All box lock instruments must be open. Lumen instruments must be flushed with water.
3. Items to be sterilized will be washed per the IFU of the instrument.
4. Items to be sterilized will be placed in a designated closed sterilization container (FLASHPAK).
  - a) Choose the appropriate size closed sterilization container.
  - b) Open valve in bottom of closed sterilization container.
  - c) Place a sterilization integrator and instruments inside inner tray.
  - d) If implants are being sterilized. ( only in emergent needs otherwise done in SPD)
    - (a) A separate sterilization record must be created utilizing a patient label so that the items sterilized, the BI results and patient information may be tracked.
  - e) Place inner tray into sterilization container, close and lock the container.
  - f) Prepare O.R. Sterilizer Load Record Form in Binder located next to sterilizer.
    - i) Check appropriate boxes and fill out form
    - ii) Place a patient sticker on the form.
  - g) Place the container in the sterilizer and close the door.
  - h) Set sterilizer to one of the appropriate sterilizer cycle listed below.
    1. 5 minute Pre-Vacuum cycle, 1 minute dry time.
  - i) Press START.
  - j) Sterilization tape will start to print out at beginning of cycle.
    - i) Place initials in designated spot.
    - ii) List instruments being sterilized on the Sterilizer Load Record Form.
5. At end of cycle
  - Remove tape from sterilizer and place on Record form. *Print a duplicate tape for "implant loads"*
  - Verify that parameters are correct. And initial tape at bottom.

*If parameters are not correct, items must be resterilized using another sterilizer.  
Report incident to a supervisor who will contact Biomedical Engineering.*

6. Open sterilizer, allow a few moments for excess steam to escape.
7. Using towels or heavy mittens, remove container from sterilizer and transport to surgical suite.
8. Open FlashPak in the OR suite and make sure that the chemical indicator has passes. If not, do not use the instruments.

#### OPEN TRAY STERILIZATION

1. Use open tray sterilization ONLY for instruments that SPD cannot accommodate in a ONE TRAY and ones that do not fit in a closed container.
2. The open tray sterilization process is the same as above but without the closed instrument tray.
3. Open trays must be covered with a sterile towel utilizing sterile technique for transport to the OR suite.

#### DECONTAMINATION CYCLES

1. A 5 minute Pre-Vacuum, 1 minute dry cycle may be used to decontaminate hardware to be returned to a patient. The hardware must be washed first to remove all bioburden.

#### **References**

1. ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017 & A1:2010 & A2:2011 & A3:2012 *Comprehensive guide to steam sterilization and sterility assurance in healthcare facilities*. Section 10.7.4
2. Association of perioperative Registered Nurses. *Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices, 2013 Edition*. Recommended Practices for Sterilization, Recommendations VII and XX.

Reviewed/Revised  
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