

**PROCEDURE**

TITLE: EVENT RELATED STERILITY

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PURPOSE: To provide criteria and guidelines for the use of hospital processed sterile goods.

SUPPORTATIVE DATA: Items sterilized in CS do not have an expiration date. These items may be used as long as the integrity of the package is not compromised by becoming torn, wet, damaged or suspected of being contaminated. Sterility maintenance is event related not time related.

CONTENT:	PROCEDURE:	KEY POINTS:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An indefinite shelf life label and date of sterilization label will be affixed to each item as the time of sterilization. No date of expiration will be present.</li> <li>2. A sterilization load indicator will be placed on each package for recall process.</li> <li>3. All items processed for sterilization will be properly wrapped and processed in a manner as to provide an effective barrier to microorganisms.</li> <li>4. All supplies must be rotated by the user(s) to insure previously processed items are used first.</li> <li>5. Items will be stored in a manner that does not aid in the compromise of the packaging of the product.</li> <li>6. In the case that a package is not suitable for use, it must be returned to the Central Service Department for reprocessing.</li> </ol>	<p>Verify that the external indicators have been exposed to a sterilization process.</p> <p>This process is done according to hospital policy and procedure.</p> <p>Storage areas should be clean, properly ventilated and provide adequate space to maintain the integrity of the packaging.</p> <p>If the package is torn, wet, has holes, broken seal or otherwise damaged, it must not be used.</p>

References: Aorn 2005, Standards, Policies and Guidelines