

Section: Division of Nursing
Approval: Creamer RN, BSN, CRUFA

* PROCEDURE *

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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MINOR PROCEDURE
(Scope)

TITLE: BACTERIOLOGICAL MONITORING OF AUTOCLAVE

PURPOSE: To provide uniform guidelines for carrying out bacteriological monitoring of sterilizers.

FREQUENCY: Daily

CONTENT:
Flash Cycle and
Gravity

PROCEDURE

1. Use a 3-minute flash cycle - gravity.
2. Two ampules are needed for each autoclave and one steam integration.
3. Ampules are incubated for 1-3 hours with the results recorded as positive or negative.
4. Label one ampule C for control and one ampule T for test along with date and your initials.
5. Place test ampule in a basket in the sterilizer on the lower rack.
6. While wearing gloves – crush, tap and incubate one non processed vial labeled C for Control. The Control vial should be the same part number, from the same manufacturing date and lot number as the test vial.
7. After the sterilization cycle has been completed, remove the test ampule, allow to cool at room temperature, crush, tap and place in incubator.
8. Vials are incubated for 1-3 hours with results recorded as positive or negative.
9. Information is recorded in the autoclave book and filed for a period of one year.

KEY POINTS

- a. One ampule is used for control – C.
- b. One ampule for test-T.

Positive results require immediate retesting and maintenance attention. **Notify charge nurse immediately of any positive result.**

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