

HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Division of Nursing

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TITLE: **STERILIZATION AND DISINFECTION**

I. **STERILIZATION**

A. Central Supply Sterilization

1. All materials and equipment to be sterilized by Ethylene Oxide must be sent out for processing.
2. All surgical items which may be steam autoclave are processed by HCH Central Supply except for:
  - a. Instruments which are needed immediately for an emergency.
  - b. Those which have been dropped from the field.
  - c. Missing instruments.

B. Flash Sterilization (sterilization of clean, unwrapped instruments and porous items only).

1. Flash sterilization may be used only when time does not permit sterilization by the preferred wrapped procedure such as emergencies, dropped or missing from set up.
2. Sets of instruments will be sent to CSR for decontamination before flashing. Individual instruments may be cleaned by OR staff before autoclaving. The items must be thoroughly cleaned in the dirty utility room by OR staff before autoclaving using soap, water, brushes to remove bioburdens.
3. Specialty instrumentation or devices (i.e. drills, saws) require different exposure times. The device manufacturer's recommendations must be followed.
4. The items will be transferred maintaining sterility at all times.

C. Monitoring

1. A log is kept of all autoclave usage.
2. Biological indicators recommended by the sterilizer manufacturer are stored and used according to manufacture's instructions.
3. Biological testing is done weekly as per procedure.
4. Heat chemical indicators are included with each item sterilized and results are noted before item is placed on sterile field.
5. Temperature and exposure time print outs must be checked for proper functioning of autoclave before dispensing items to sterile field.

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6. Any malfunctioning of the sterilizer is immediately reported to the OR Manager/Charge Nurse and the sterilizer is labeled as "out of order".
7. Sterilizers that have been serviced may be utilized only after they have been biologically tested and the test results known.
8. Temperature and exposure time records will be kept for a period of five years.

D. Maintenance and Cleaning

1. Material Management is notified when there is a problem with the autoclave.
2. Cleaning
  - a. Drain will be cleaned daily.
  - b. Autoclaves will be cleaned weekly following manufacturer's recommendations.
  - c. Record of all cleaning is kept in autoclave usage log.

II. **CHEMICAL DISINFECTION**

- A. Heat sensitive instruments are processed using the Steris system.
- B. See procedure.
- C. Biological testing is done on a daily basis.
- D. Diagnostic testing is done on a daily basis.
- E. A log is kept of all items processed via the Steris system.