

Section: Division of Nursing
Approval: _____

PROCEDURE

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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OR
(Scope)

TITLE: OPENING AND DELIVERING ITEMS TO THE STERILE FIELD

PURPOSE: To outline the procedure used to introduce items onto a sterile field. They must be opened, dispensed and transferred by methods that maintain sterility and integrity.

CONTENT:	<u>PROCEDURE STEPS:</u>	<u>KEY POINTS:</u>
	1. Wrapped supplies: Exam package for integrity, indicators, locks, etc. a. <u>Unscrubbed personnel</u> - open wrapper flaps farthest away from them first and the nearest wrapper flap last. b. <u>Scrubbed personnel</u> - open wrapper flap (or drape sheet) closest to self and flap farthest away last.	Prevents contamination of item by the passing of an unsterile arm over the sterile field.
	2. Wrapper edges will be secured when supplies are presented to the sterile field.	Prevents possible contamination of scrub personnel by leaning against unsterile area.
	3. Sterile items are presented to the scrub person or placed securely on the sterile field. Small packages of loose instruments are passed after opening wrapper to avoid spilling contents of package.	Secured wrapper edges prevent flipping the wrapper and contaminating the contents of the sterile field.
	4. Sharp and/or heavy objects are presented to the scrub person or opened on a separate surface.	Items tossed onto a sterile field may roll off and become contaminated or perforate back table cover.
	5. Dispensing solutions: a. Solution receptacle is placed near the edge of the table or held by the scrub person. b. Fluids are poured slowly to avoid splashing.	Sharp and heavy objects may penetrate barriers. Placing receptacle near the edge of the sterile field allows unscrubbed personnel to pour fluids without reaching over the sterile field. Splashing can cause contamination by strike through.