

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER  
INFECTION CONTROL MANUAL  
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 5979  
VERSION: 2**

**SUBJECT/TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INFECTION CONTROL ATTEST SYSTEM – N/A AT HEALTH CENTERS**

- POLICY:**
- A. The autoclave will be tested weekly by the attest system. The Director or Associate Director of the Department will administer the testing and logging of results. In his absence, the Supervisor will administer the testing and logging of results.
  - B. In the event the results are positive, notify Environmental Health and Safety Office, Infection Control and Facilities that there is a positive test result.
  - C. If there will be more than a 12 hour delay in autoclaving biohazardous waste, the vendor designated by LA County Department of Health Services will be contacted to pick up all biohazardous waste stored in the biohazardous waste room at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.
  - D. The autoclave will be tested, repaired if necessary and retested to assure proper function.
  - E. The autoclave will not be utilized until authorization from Environmental Health and Safety Office Infection Control has been given, following two negative tests.

**PURPOSE:** To insure proper sterilization of biohazardous waste and sharps.

**DEPARTMENTS:** Environmental Services, Infection Control

**DEFINITIONS:**

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Sterilization**
  - 1. Identify the Attest™ indicator by noting the sterilizer and load numbers.
  - 2. Test packs for steam sterilization: When monitoring 250/F (121/C) gravity or 270/F (132/C) prevacuum steam cycles, place a 1262 Attest indicator in a suitable test pack which is representative of the load (e.g., full biohazardous waste trash bag).

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3. Place this test pack in the most challenging area in the sterilizer; generally, the bottom shelf near the door and over the drain.
4. Process the load as usual.
5. Allow the test pack to cool for a sufficient amount of time, to cool the indicator (at least 10 minutes).
6. Retrieve the Attest™ indicator(s) from the test pack.
7. The chemical indicator on the steam and the flash Attest™ indicator label changes from “rose” to “brown” when processed.
8. Incubate the indicator within two hours or refrigerate (if instructions are not followed, the spore will die off at room temperature and a sterilization process failure may go undetected).

**B. Incubation**

1. Place the bottom of the indicator into the incubator’s metal heating block so that the indicator is at an angle of approximately 45°
2. Push the indicator straight back. This crushes the ampule and activates the indicator.

**C. Interpretation**

1. Examine the indicator at regular intervals (8,12,18,24 and 48 hours) for any color change. Appearance of yellow color (a positive readout) indicates bacterial growth. No color change indicates an adequate sterilization cycle.
2. A final determination of sterility can be made at 48 hours of incubation for 1262/1262P Attest™ indicators and at 24 hours of incubation for 1261/1261P Attest™ indicators.
3. Record results in Attest™ Chart Entry Log.

**D. Use of Controls**

1. As a positive growth control, place an activated, non-sterilized Attest™ biological indicator in each incubator on a weekly basis.
2. When examining the processed indicator at regular intervals such as 8, 12, 24, 48 hours, also examine the control indicator for a color

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change toward yellow (evidence of bacterial growth).

3. Record result in entry log.
4. Dispose of used indicators in accordance with hospital policy. Autoclave any positive indicators using normal sterilization procedures.

References:	
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