



**Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**  
**OPERATING ROOM**  
**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

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**SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL MONITORING**

**Policy No.: OR 005**

**Revision Date: 02/2018**

**Effective Date: 11/2006**

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**Policy Statement:** Biological testing of each sterilizer with each load to ensure the effectiveness of sterilization.

Biological indicators ascertain whether products have been subjected to sterilization condition. Sterility of the load is evidenced by the killing of all spores on the biological test indicators.

**Physician's Order Required: No**

**Policy:**

1. Test loads will be completed prior to first cases on all scheduled workdays (except holidays) for each flash sterilizer.

**Exception:** Call back or non-scheduled surgeries

2. Avoid the use of IUSS (Immediate Use Steam Sterilization). The staff will utilize peel pack/s to replace an item.

**Performed By:** RN, Surgical Technician, Sterile Processing Technician

**Equipment List:**

1. Test pack and 1 Biological indicator with matching Manufacturer's lot numbers.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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**Reviewed by:** Jo-Ann Abesamis BSN, RN, CNOR.

**Reference:**

AORN. (2020). Perioperative standards and recommended practices. Denver, CO: AORN.

ATTEST Instructions for use, 3M Health Care.

Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

Reviewed -02/16

Reviewed -02/20

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