



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
CLINICAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE USE STEAM STERILIZATION
(IUSS)**

Policy No.: OR033

Effective Date: 02/2016

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Purpose of Procedure: To provide the highest level of assurance that an object is free of viable microbes.

Equipment: 1 Sterilometer
Tray of instruments or items to be autoclaved

Performed by: Circulating nurse, Scrub tech

Physician's Order Required: No

Policy Statements:

1. Autoclave will be cleaned according to manufacture guidelines.
 - a. Daily before the first surgical procedure the Sediment screen will be removed from the chamber drain and thoroughly rinsed and cleaned with warm soapy water.
 - b. Clean the exterior surface weekly with an approved Germicidal wipe
 - c. Clean the interior surface weekly with an approved scale remover.
 - d. Document cleaning on the Autoclave cleaning log.

1. A sterilometer and a one-hour attest indicator for implants must be placed in each tray to be sterilized using the fast exhaust or unwrapped cycle.
KEY NOTE: Immediate Use Steam Sterilization should be kept to a minimum.

2. The following shall be ascertained prior to placement of any item from the Autoclave on to the sterile field:
 - a. The Autoclave graph indicates a temperature of 270 degrees Fahrenheit for the appropriate time period.
 - b. The Sterilometer indicator bar is black in color.

3. Minimum Flash Exposure Time

The minimum exposure times for sterilization at 270 degrees Fahrenheit are:
 - a. Instruments (metal only - unwrapped) - 3 minutes (or as per manufacture.)
 - b. Instruments (metal with porous material-Unwrapped) - 10 minutes (or as per manufacture.)
 - c. Utensils (on side-unwrapped) - 3 minutes (or as per manufacture.).

- d. Needles (moist lumens-unwrapped) - 3 minutes (or as per manufacture.)
- e. Glassware (empty, inverted-unwrapped) - 3 minutes (or as per manufacture.)
- f. Rubber catheters, tubes (lumen moist-unwrapped) 10 minutes (per manufacture.)
- g. Power equipment-saws, hose, driver heads (unwrapped) - 30 minutes (or as per manufacture.)

Procedure: Follow manufacturers' instructions.

Documentation: Record in Biological lab book date, time, patient's ID number, and name of item flashed and results of one-hour attest if indicated.

Reviewed by: Jo-Ann Abesamis, BSN, RN

References:

Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2018 Edition Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

02/16 – Reviewed

10/18- Revised

02/20 – Reviewed