HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM
AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: XIII-135 STERIS SYSTEM 1E	**POLICY #**: 1093
	VERSION: 1
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PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for operating the Steris 1E System.

POLICY: The Steris 1E System is to be used to sterilize endoscopes and fragile instruments. The Steris system provides relatively rapid, low temperature sterilization for items that can be fully immersed. The following procedure is to be followed when operating the Steris 1E system.

PROCEDURE:

I. For customer service, telephone 1-800 548-4873

II. Handling of sterile instruments after processing:

A. Ridged instruments in J.I.T. container

1. Container is designed to transport sterile instruments from processor to operating room (OR) without contamination.

2. The container is removed from the processor and transported into the OR and is placed on a flat surface, and the lid opened by the circulating nurse.

3. The contents are carefully removed by the scrub nurse wearing sterile gloves, without touching the outside or edges of container.

III. Chemical Monitoring

A. Steris process chemical monitoring strips have been developed exclusively for the independent monitoring of the Steris System 1E process employing Steris 20 Sterilent.

B. The chemical monitor is a qualitative chemical indication used to detect the presence of the active ingredient in the use of Steris 20. When the active ingredient is > 1500 ppm, the color of the chemical monitoring strip will change from the color of the START reference block to the color of the COMPLETE reference block or lighter.

C. A chemical indicator is to be included in each load by the operator.

D. Check the expiration date. Do not use beyond the expiration date.

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E. Compare the unexposed strip to the reference color block labeled START on the container. Do not use if the color of the indicator pad does not match the reference color block labeled START.

F. Using the clip provided (Orange bulldog), place one strip in the STERIS SYSTEM IE Processor. The clip is used to anchor the strip and permit easy retrieval.

G. START standard processing cycle according to the Steris System IE Operating Manual.

H. Following cycle COMPLETE, compare the strip to the reference color block on the container.

I. **Record results on the machine printout, including: MR# of patient, MD and instruments** that were processed including the serial # if item processed is a flexible endoscope.

J. Prior to placing the sterilized instruments on the sterile field, both the scrub technician and Circulating Nurse will check the chemical indicator for proper color change.

K. The cycle number will be recorded on the Perioperative Record

L. If color change is incomplete:

1. Stop the process and consider the load unprocessed.

2. Run a second processing cycle with new chemical monitoring strip.

3. Notify the ASC Nursing Director or designee.

4. If repeat strip exhibits incomplete color change, notify ASC Nursing Director or designee, who will call STERIS Customer Service at 1-800-548-4873.

5. Steris System 1E will be tagged with "Out of Order"

IV. Routine Maintenance

A. Staff will conduct a diagnostic cycle once a day (every 24 hours) during days of operation.

B. Assigned staff will do once a week routine maintenance as follows:

1. Remove the inner tray and aspirate residual water from the chamber with a syringe.

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2. Wipe dry all inside surfaces.

3. Using an alcohol soaked terry towel, wipe down all surfaces of the sterilizer and the trays.

4. Leave the tray out of the sterilizer with the lid open, and allow to air dry.

5. Wipe down the counter surface and put away all loose supplies.

REFERENCES:

Steris System IE Operation Manual

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