

HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: XIII-143 CLEANING OF STEAM STERILIZERS	POLICY #: 1101
	VERSION: 1
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DATE APPROVED: 11/21/2017	

PURPOSE: To prevent dirt and debris from accumulating in the steam sterilizer that would alter the sterilization capabilities.

POLICY: Sterilizers in the Ambulatory Surgical Center will be monthly or as needed according to the following procedure.

PROCEDURE:

Essential data and/or equipment:

1. Water
 2. Cleaning agent
 3. Cleaning towels
 4. Gloves non-sterile
 5. One (1) non-metallic scrub brush
 6. One (1) buckets for rinsing
1. Turn sterilizer to off position, to allow cooling of autoclave jacket and chamber.
 2. When sterilizer jacket is cool, put on gloves.
 - a. Fill bucket with clean water.
 - b. Remove racks from sterilizer and set aside for cleaning.
 - c. Spray "Fact" cleaning treatment system generously on inside walls of autoclave. Allow to remain wet for 15- 30mins.
 - d. Scrub inside of sterilizer top, bottom, back, sides and inside door with non-metallic brush to facilitate cleaning.
 - e. After entire inside of sterilizer is scrubbed clean, use a clean towel dampened with the water in the bucket and rinse out the entire autoclave. Do this several times until all cleaning agent is removed from inside of the sterilizer.

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- f. In some sterilizers there will be a "lint screen" located on the bottom center or front center -lift out to clean out lint and dirt. Replace after cleaning.
- 3. The next step is very important- for autoclave with drain covers:
 - a. Open the "Chamber Drain" valve - which is located in the lower front of the autoclave. Open lower panel where the "Chamber Drain" is located, twist the chamber drain now to OPEN.
- 4. Clean all sterilizer racks in the same manner as the inside of the sterilizer.
- 5. Return all cleaning equipment to proper storage. Place cleaned and dried ready for next use:
 - a. Discard used towels in trash.
 - b. Empty buckets and replace.
 - c. Replace all cleaned and dried sterilizer racks and carriages in proper sterilizers.
- 6. Turn power back on, to heat up sterilizer jackets.
- 7. Record completion of cleaning sterilizer in Sterilizer Cleaning Log.

REFERENCES:

AORN Standards and Recommended Guidelines
 The Manual of Operating Management

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