

## HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

<b>SUBJECT:</b> XIII-133 STERILIZATION & DISINFECTION OF EQUIPMENT	<b>POLICY #:</b> 1111
	<b>VERSION:</b> 1
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<b>DATE APPROVED:</b> 11/21/2017	

**PURPOSE:** To monitor and direct the selection and use of sterilization or disinfection processes.

**POLICY:** The Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC Guidelines, the Association of Peri-Operative Nursing (AORN), the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) and the manufacturers' recommendations for the use of sterilants, disinfectants, equipment and processes in accordance with regulatory requirements.

### DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA:

#### A. Sterilization

Sterilization is the complete elimination or destruction of all forms of microbial life. Types of sterilization methods include thermal (steam autoclave or dry heat) and chemical (Peracetic acid).

#### B. Disinfection

Disinfection describes a process that eliminates many or all pathogenic microorganisms, with the exception of bacterial spores, from inanimate objects; rarely kills all spores. Chemical agents include alcohol, bleach, iodophores, phenolics, quaternary ammonia compounds and aldehydes.

1. **High-level disinfection** can be expected to destroy all microorganisms, with the exception of high numbers of bacterial spores.
2. **Intermediate-level disinfection** inactivates Mycobacterium tuberculosis, vegetative bacteria, most viruses, and most fungi, but does not necessarily kill bacterial spores.
3. **Low-level disinfection** can kill most bacteria, some viruses, and some fungi, but it cannot be relied on to kill resistant microorganisms such as Mycobacterium tuberculosis or bacterial spores.

#### C. Cleaning

Cleaning is the removal of all foreign material (e.g., soil, organic material) from objects, it is normally accomplished with water, mechanical action, and detergents or enzymatic products. Failure to remove foreign matter from an object before disinfection or sterilization process is likely to render the process ineffective.

#### D. Critical Items

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Item that enters sterile tissue or vascular system. **Sterilization is required.**

**E. Semi-critical Items**

Item that comes in contact with mucous membrane or non-intact skin. **High Level Disinfection (HLD) or Sterilization is required.**

**F. Non-critical Items**

Item that comes in contact with intact skin. **Low Level or Intermediate Level Disinfection is required.**

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The ASC Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) and the High Desert Regional Health Center Infection Preventionist (IP) oversee sterilization and disinfection activities in the following capacities:

**A. The Infection Preventionist:**

1. Serves as a consultant and makes recommendations regarding level(s) of disinfection or sterilization methods for equipment and the environment.
2. Assists in policy development regarding cleaning, disinfection and sterilization.
3. Reviews monitoring activities.

**B. The ASC MAC Committee:**

1. Approves, prior to purchase, solutions and processes used for cleaning, disinfection and sterilization.
2. Reviews and approves policies and procedures for cleaning, disinfection or sterilization of equipment and environment.
3. Reviews monitoring activities.

**C. The ASC Staff:**

1. The ASC Nursing Director, or designee, is responsible for training and evaluating competency monitoring of employees whose duties include pre-cleaning, the use of disinfectants and or sterilization techniques and monitoring sterility of supplies and processes. This training will include review of departmental policies and procedures and will be documented.
2. The ASC staff is responsible for performing the monitoring activities including: maintaining logs of biological monitoring results as required for all autoclaves; requesting maintenance and repair; performing repeat testing of sterilization equipment.

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### ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

1. Items will be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated before high-level disinfection or sterilization.
2. Appropriate personal protective equipment will be worn during cleaning and decontamination.

### REFERENCES:

Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008. Rutala W, Weber D. CDC Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, Nov. 2008.  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhap/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection\\_Nov\\_2\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhap/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2_2008.pdf)

"Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities", Recommendation of CDC and HICPAC, U.S. Department of Health Human Services, CDC, 2003.

Rutala, William, Weber, David, "Disinfection and Sterilization: An overview, American Journal of Infection Control, Vol 41, Issue 5 Supplement, Pages S2-S5, May 2013 .

Standards, Recommendations and Practice Guidelines, AORN 2014.

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