



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

OPERATING ROOM

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: MONITORING STERILE SUPPLIES

Policy No.: OR52
Supersedes: ALL
Reviewed Date: 02/2016
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Purpose of Procedure: To ensure the sterility of the package contents.

Performed By: RN, Surgical Technician, Central Service Technician

Policy Statements:

1. Checking of expiration dates will be performed by Central Service Technician according to the policies and procedures of Central Service/Materials Management department.
2. The nurse or surgical technician assigned to each operating room will be responsible for conducting a daily check for outdated sterile items.
3. The nurse or surgical technician will take the outdated items to Central Service Work Room for disposition.
4. Stock will be rotated back to front or left to right to assure rotation of supplies.
5. When an expiration date is not specified on commercially prepared sterile items, the statement on the packaging to the effect that the item is sterile, unless the integrity of the packaging has been compromised, represents an acceptable day-to-day expiration date.
KEY POINT: Each package shall be examined prior to placement on the sterile field for expiration date and integrity.

Reviewed by: Beverly Atkins, RN

References:

Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2015 Edition
Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

09/11 – Reviewed
12/12 – Reviewed
02/16 - Reviewed

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/2012
APPROVED BY: Practice Council

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Signature(s) on File.