



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

OPERATING ROOM

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: RECALL OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED ITEMS
FLASH STERILIZER FAILURE**

Policy No.: OR72
Supersedes: ALL
Reviewed Date: 01/2012
Page: 1 of 2

Policy Statement: Biological indicators are run daily in the flash sterilizers in the Operating Room to determine the effectiveness of the sterilization process. A method to notify all necessary personnel of a potential sterilizer failure must be available. All necessary personnel will be notified of sterilizer failure.

Performed By: RN, Surgical Technician

Procedural Steps:

1. A positive Attest indicator indicates a potential sterilizer failure.
KEY POINT: A yellow color in a processed Attest indicator is a positive result.
2. The nursing staff member finding a positive Attest indicator will notify the Nurse Manager/Charge Nurse.
KEY POINT: Attest indicator is read in 24 hours.
3. The affected sterilizer will not be used until the unit is checked by Building Crafts. A Rapid Readout Attest, which is read in 1 hour, is run. If this Attest is still positive Building Crafts must be notified and sterilizer will not be used.
4. If no problems are identified after the Rapid Readout results are negative, another Attest indicator will be run and read in the following 24 hours..
5. A positive test on the following day will be reported to Building Crafts immediately. The sterilizer will not be used until all parameters for sterilization are met and a negative Attest result is obtained.
6. The surgical schedule for the affected dates will be reviewed. The surgeons performing procedures on the questionable dates will be notified immediately.
7. The Nurse Epidemiologist will be notified by the Nurse Manager/Charge Nurse.
KEY POINT: Affected patient may require follow-up.

Revised by:
Susie Choi, RN, BSN

References:
3M Attest Biological Indicators Instructions for Use
Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2015 Edition
Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

01/2016 - Reviewed

SUBJECT: OPERATING ROOM ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

Policy No.: OR59

Supersedes: ALL

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