

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER  
INFECTION CONTROL MANUAL  
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 5978  
VERSION: 2**

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STERILIZATION OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE – NOT APPLICABLE AT HEALTH CENTERS

**POLICY:** Sterilization of biohazardous waste

**PURPOSE:** To establish a mechanism to sterilize biohazardous waste. It is the intent of this procedure to incorporate California State Regulations regarding waste management.

**DEPARTMENTS:** Environmental Services, Infection Control

**DEFINITIONS:**

**PROCEDURE:** **EXHIBIT:** Biohazardous Waste Verification Log. Exhibit I. The Verification Log is used to record the number of red bags received at the autoclave and the number of bags actually autoclaved. This process reduces the risk of disposing of unprocessed biohazardous waste into the compactor.

**ACTION STEPS:**

1. Receive waste from housekeeper / trash technicians.
2. Complete the Verification Log by:
  - a. Entering the time the waste is delivered.
  - b. Counting and recording the number of red bags delivered.
3. Obtain the signature of the housekeeper / trash technician on the Verification Log.
4. Red bags are then placed in sterilizer carts.
5. Loaded sterilizer carts are pushed up ramp of sterilizer, into the sterilizer. The sterilizer will hold three carts fully loaded.
6. Sterilizer is loaded:
  - a. Close sterilizer door.
  - b. Orange colored ratchet handle must be fully engaged with arrow

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- pointing up. Rotate ratchet until it stops.
  - c. Sterilizer door locking lever is located above ratchet handle. Handle must be pushed to the left.
  - d. Turn start key on.
7. The sterilizer will run for at least 30 minutes. The temperature chart will read 270°. If temperature chart is not recording 270°, let your supervisor know at once.
  8. When the sterilizer has completed its cycle, it will stop automatically.
  9. Forty-five minutes to one hour is the cool down time before door can be opened.
  10. Look at pressure gauge located at the top of the sterilizer. If there is one pound of pressure left on pressure gauge, the door will not open.
  11. Open door, remove carts. Remove bags from carts and place into Biohazardous brute container.
  12. Weigh sterilized waste and document on Biohazardous Waste Verification Log.
  13. Place waste into compactor.

References:	
Approved by: Alma Alvarez (Director, Infection Control)	Date: 10/11/2016
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