Standard Operating Procedure

Immediate Use Steam Sterilization (IUSS) for Emergency Situations

Document #: A1.31
Initial effective date: October 2017
Last updated: February 2020
Next review: February 2023

OBJECTIVES

The use of IUSS should be limited to the circumstances outlined in this Standard Operating Procedure.

PRINCIPLES

- All practical measures will be taken to avoid the need of Immediate Use Steam Sterilization and to limit its use so that it is only performed in emergency situations.
- Maintenance of adequate inventories of medical devices and flash containers.
- Immediate Use Steam Sterilization shall not be used to sterilize implants or complete instrument sets.
- Immediate use Steam Sterilization shall not be used to compensate for inventory shortages.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staff, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary) working within Medical Device Reprocessing and operating rooms.

ELEMENTS

1. Nursing staff shall notify their applicable manager or designate that they have an item to be sterilized, the manager or designate will then determine if the item(s) are required to continue with surgery.
2. Nursing staff will provide the required documentation including the reason for the (IUSS) request, (i.e. item was contaminated, there is not an available replacement or it is required in an emergency situation where regular processing requirements cannot be met).
    - If the device meets the requirements for IUSS the item will be sterilized following the manufacture's recommendations.
    - Under no circumstances shall implants and/or full sets of instrumentation be Immediate Use Steam Sterilized.
    - A daily Biological Indicator (BI) test will be performed. Monitoring will be reviewed to ensure the BI has passed.

For more information contact
ipc.mdrreviews@ahs.ca

Original date: October 2017
Revised date: February 2020

Alberta Health Services
Infection Prevention & Control

3. The technician will take a covered leak proof instrument pan lined with a Huck towel to the theater to receive the contaminated device.
4. The nurse will place the contaminated device in the pan.
5. The MDR staff member will ensure the device is accompanied by a patient label and the IUSS log form.
    - The MDR staff member will review the sheet making sure it is all filled out and signed by the OR manager or accountable staff member.
    - If the sheet is not filled out do not accept the item and do not fill the Technician section of the form out.

    Note: All subsequent steps are MDR steps
6. Manually clean and rinse the device according to the manufacturer's instructions.
7. Inspect the device for cleanliness, and when verified as clean continue with the following steps.
8. Reference the Flash Pack Venting Log Sheet to verify the pack has been vented. For other IUSS container systems, follow the MIFU.
9. Place the clean device into the Flash Pack basket. Any concaved items must be placed upside down and all instruments that can be, should be left opened or disassembled as per manufacturer's recommendations.
10. Place one Comply Class 5 Integrator, so it is visible inside the pack, with the device and close the lid of the Flash Pack.
11. Open the sterilizer door, load the Flash Pack and close sterilizer door.
12. Select from the appropriate cycle as per the sterilize MIFU from the 2 options below:
13. Once the appropriate cycle has been selected. Press Start.
14. Documentation for immediate use steam sterilization includes:
    - sterilizer identifier;
    - load number;
    - date and time of cycle;
    - results of chemical indicators and mechanical indicators of physical parameters (e.g., time, temp, etc.);
    - load contents;
    - identification of person responsible for indicators and load release;
    - patient name and ID number;
    - surgeon’s name;
    - reason for immediate use steam sterilization.
15. When the cycle is complete, check the cycle parameters (time & temperature). Using heat resistant gloves, remove the pack. Do not open the pack, CAUTION: PACK IS VERY HOT.
16. Do not open the pack. Place on transport cart and deliver to the theater.
17. The nursing staff will then follow the transfer to the sterile field.

For more information contact
ipc.mdrreviewes@ahs.ca

Original date: October 2017
Revised date: February 2020

18. Materials required:
    - Flash pack;
    - Integrator;
    - Heat proof gloves;
    - Immediate Use Steam Sterilization log sheet and form;
    - 2 x Huck towel;
    - Instrument pan;
    - Manufacturer's Instructions;
    - Immediate use Steam Sterilization log form;
    - Sterilizer printout;
    - Patient Label;
    - Immediate Use Steam Sterilization log sheet.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services documents
    - Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing. (Canadian Standards Association) (CAN/CSA Z314-18)

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
October 2017	Initial approval
February 2020	Last updated
February 2023	Next revision date