Standard Operating Procedure

Steam Sterilization

Document #: A1.26.1
Initial effective date: February 2020
Last updated: February 2020
Next review: February 2023

OBJECTIVES

To ensure the proper use and loading of the steam sterilizer(s) resulting in longer life for the machine and the terminal sterilization of instruments and linen.

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. All staff must have a proper orientation (training program) on how to operate steam sterilizers.
2. The equipment operator's manual must be posted next to the sterilizer or be readily available to MDR staff.
3. Staff will follow the guidelines contained in "Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing (CAN/CSA Z314-18)" regarding sterilizer requalification testing.
4. All documentation regarding initial qualification and requalification of sterilizers must be maintained with other sterilizer documentation.
5. Each load containing implants must have a biological indicator test performed.
6. When performing the daily start-up for a vacuum sterilizer, the following cycles will be completed:
    - daily warm-up cycle;
    - dynamic Air-Removal Test;
    - Biological Process Challenging Device Test.
7. When performing the gravity cycle, use the appropriate Biological Indicator test.
8. Consult your Operators Manual for machine particulars as each sterilizer model can be slightly different.
9. Document itemized detailed contents of load and upon cycle completion, attach the load record to the computer printout for that load.
10. The computer printout is signed by the person removing the load to verify that all the conditions selected for that load have been met.
11. Refer to the Recall Procedure for all positive BI or failed sterilization loads.
12. Quarantine completed loads until load has cooled to room temperature (18-23 degrees).

For more information contact
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Alberta Health Services
Infection Prevention & Control

13. Maintenance and service
    - Routine maintenance and preventive maintenance are followed by the manufacturer's operating manual.
    - Maintenance will notify MDR when both sterilizers need extra weekly preventive maintenance or a gasket change which in turn will off.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services documents
  - *Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing. (Canadian Standards Association)* (CAN/CSA Z314-18)
  - *Getinge Operators 633HC Manual.*

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
February 2020	Original date
February 2020	Last updated
February 2023	Next revision date