Steam Sterilization

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).
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)*

VERSION HISTORY

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