

Perioperative Services Competency Assessment - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Steam Sterilization	Interpretation	Rational
A. Demonstrate loading steam sterilizer cart	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Items requiring same cycle parameters should be processed together. 2. Items should not be packed tightly on sterilizer cart. 3. Peel pack items must be placed on their side –paper to plastic. 4. Textile packs must be placed on their side. 5. Basin sets should be sterilized on their side with concave surface facing downward. 6. Wrapped instrument should be placed above rigid containers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.-4. Facilitates steam sterilization of packaging contents. 5. Prohibits moisture from pooling inside of basin. 6. Prohibits condensation from falling down onto wrapped sets.
B. Demonstrate loading sterilizer cart into sterilizer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open sterilizer door. 2. Lock sterilizer cart securely onto sterilizer. 3. Carefully push sterilizer rack into chamber. Items should not touch inner walls of sterilizer chamber. 4. Determine if BI is needed in load. 5. Close sterilizer door. 6. Choose sterilization cycle. 7. Enter in sterilizer code. 8. Verify ID 9. Verify information on sterilizer screen. 10. Start cycle. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Items touching chamber walls can burn or become scorched. 4. BI determines lethality of sterilization process. 7. Sterilizer code identifies sterilizer operator. 9. Verifying information assures items will be sterilized accordingly correctly.
C. Demonstrate unloading sterilizer cart after cycle has finished.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter sterilizer ID code. 2. Unlock and open sterilizer door. 3. Secure sterilizer cart to the front of sterilizer. 4. Use thermal mitts or pads to remove sterilizer rack from sterilizer. 5. Carefully remove rack or items from sterilizer. 6. Visually verify that there is no moisture on package or sterilizer rack. 7. Visually verify change of process indicators. 8. Verify correct temp, time, and pressure of load and initial sterilizer tape. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ID's operator who removed items out of sterilizer. 2. Sterilizer door maybe slightly open to permit escape of vapor and assist in drying. 3. Protection from possible burns handling sterilizer rack. 6. Moisture on packages indicates sterilization failure. 7. Verify that steam has reached items in the sterilizer chamber. 8. Verify parameters have been met for adequate sterilization.
E. Verbalize how to monitor instruments for proper cool down temp.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruments must be placed in the cool down area after sterilization. 2. Cool down area must be an area of low traffic. 3. All instrumentation placed in cool down should be scanned to the cool down location. 4. Instruments must not be handled until they have reached room temperature. Temperature may be verified using a laser thermometer. Instrument packaging must be cool to the touch. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reduce condensation inside instrument containers. 2. Reduces potential of burns from hot rack or instrumentation. 3. Allows tracking and locating of processed instrumentation 4. Handling hot or warm instruments could increase risk of contamination.