

Perioperative Services Competency Assessment - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Sterile Supplies and Instruments, Opening	Interpretation	Rationale
A. Preparation of intraoperative environment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect, damp dust or clean flat surfaces and surgical lights as needed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Surfaces should be clean and free of any visible potential sources of contamination.
B. Demonstrate ability to establish a sterile back table.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect outer plastic covering for holes or tears. Inspect sealed integrity of the pack. Open pack and place in the center of the table. Tear the indicator tape or seal at the fold. Grasp the uppermost fold, open the pack and drape over the table edge. Walk to end of the table, grasp the cuff of the drape and open toward self. Walk to the other end of the table, grasp the cuff of the drape and open toward self. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If the integrity of the pack has been compromised, consider the pack contaminated.
C. Demonstrates ability to open and place envelope-style packages onto the sterile field.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove outer wrap after checking proper color of chemical indicator tape. Grasp item from bottom with the previously taped fold facing upward and peel down the flap on the back side, repeat on each side, and securing loose ends in the fingers of the hand holding the item itself by working under the item. Stand 12 inches away from sterile field and toss the item onto the back table or sterile ring stand. May place the unwrapped item on the proximal side of the table to you. Items may be transferred to a person who is already scrubbed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Check for sterilization process. Never reach over a sterile field and shake an item from the package. A non-sterile person should never extend hands or arms over the sterile field for any reason.
D. Demonstrates ability to open wrapped instrument sets in a sterile manner.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Circulator inspects outer wrapper for holes, tears, moisture. Open on clean flat surface. Tear indicator tape after verifying color change. Peel back first fold away from body, allowing wrapper to drop over table edge. Repeat for side folds. The last fold should be pulled toward self. Verify chemical integrator. Scrub takes pan. Circulating nurse takes wrapper, holds up to light verifying no holes or tears in wrapper. If there are holes or sterility is not guaranteed, set is not placed on sterile field, scrub changes gloves. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any wet, torn or perforated wrapper must be considered non-sterile. Items of doubtful sterility must be considered unsterile. The absence of an indicator or one that has not turned color properly, the set is considered unsterile.
E. Demonstrates ability to open sets in instrument cases.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Verify filter placement on top of lid. Verify chemical indicators on arrows and load card. Snap arrows and lift latches on ends. Lift lid straight up for 12 inches and step away from the instrument set. Circulator verifies filter placement and removes old filters. Scrub checks internal indicator for exposure to sterilization process. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sets must be considered unsterile if filters are absent or displaced.
F. Demonstrates ability to open and place peel packs without contamination of sterile field.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Check package integrity. Check all chemical indicators. Open by separating edges of wrapper and peeling back. Toss onto sterile field. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If holes or evidence of previous moisture, item is considered contaminated. Indicates has been exposed to sterilant. The seal and all areas outside the seal are considered non-sterile. Reaching over sterile field with arms allows shedding and fallout of bacteria onto sterile field.
G. Demonstrates ability to maintain sterility of field.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates maintenance of sterile field. Assures that sterile field is maintained and monitored constantly. Uses principles of aseptic technique in varying situations and initiates corrective action when breaks in technique occur. If scrubbed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sets up field and instruments accurately and in a timely manner. Prepares and passes instruments, sharps, and equipment in accordance with policies and procedures. Demonstrates competence in surgical instrument identification. Breaks down sterile field at end of case and disposes of trash. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel and observers should be knowledgeable about the procedures involved in developing and maintaining a sterile field.

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