



## Sterilization Area Protocol

### “Set-Up & 1<sup>st</sup> Sterilization Cycle

Volunteers preparing instruments for MOM must clean hands with hand sanitizer, wear closed toe shoes, wear protective eyewear & heavy duty gloves when working with chemicals & dirty items. A Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended.

1. Place (1) instrument in nylon pouch; add internal indicator.  
Arrange pouches side by side on sterilizer trays. (DO NOT OVER LOAD TRAYS.)  
Add spore test to each sterilizer (monitored by ADC staff).  
Place trays in sterilizer; operate sterilizer in Pouch Mode  
(270 degrees F for 5 minutes) (Dry for 30 minutes) (Cool for 10 minutes).  
After cycle – remove trays, sort instruments, carry to clean area when required.
2. When cycle is completed, place spore tests & control in incubator for required time.  
If spore test fails, a 2<sup>nd</sup> test will be performed to verify human error.  
If a 2<sup>nd</sup> test fails sterilizer will not be used.

Volunteers in Areas 1, 2, 3, 7 “Dirty Area/Instrument Drop Off”  
(Medical trash, regulated trash & sharp containers are available.)

Area 1: Drop Off/ Dirty Area (Wear heavy duty gloves)

- Inspect dirty instruments.
- Instruct clinicians to remove/disposable items on tray & place in designated trash (cotton rolls, teeth, gauze, sharps, etc.).
- Transfer instruments to ultrasonic cleaner area.
- Transfer handpieces to designated cleaning area.

Area 2: Ultrasonic Cleaner Area (Wear heavy duty gloves)

- Place instruments in ultrasonic cleaners for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.
- Rinse chemical off instruments.
- Inspect for debris, blood; repeat cleaning if necessary.
- Open hinged instruments.
- Place (1) instrument in pouch; add internal indicator.
- Close pouch (fold at appropriate point; seal).
- Place pouches side/side on sterilizer tray (DO NOT STACK or OVER LOAD TRAY).
- Transfer instruments to sterilizer area.

Area 3: Handpieces Area Cleaning/Care (Wear heavy duty gloves)

- Clean/wipe handpiece with alcohol to remove any debris.
- Lubricate & place handpiece in pouch with internal indicator; place on sterilizer tray.
- Transfer handpiece to sterilizer area.

Area 4: Sterilizer Area (Wear heavy cleaning gloves)

- Operate sterilizer @ 270 degrees for 5 minutes.
- Place trays in sterilizer, close chamber door.
- When cycle is complete, door will automatically open.
- Allow time for instruments to dry (30 minutes) (Cool for 10 minutes).
- Use pot holder to remove tray; allow items to cool.
- Inspect pouches for failed packaging; check internal indicators.
- Allow sterilizer to cool (Prevent over-heating).
- Remove Gloves: "Transfer sterile instruments to clean area."

Area 5: Sterile/Clean Instrument Area

- Inspect instruments & pouches for failed packaging.
- Sort instruments, place in appropriate labeled bins (see pictures).
- Assist/Dispense sterile instruments to clinicians.

Area 6: Returned unused instrument pouches (area 5).

- Inspect pouch for tears; if not compromised, clean/disinfect pouch (wear exam gloves).
- Return pouch to appropriate bin.

Area 7: Doctors Personal Instruments Drop off (Dirty) & Pick-Up (Sterile) Area

Instruments will be cleaned/sterilized by designated volunteer who will be responsible for keeping personal instruments separate from ADCF items.

Sharps container, regulated trash, medical trash containers are available (Wear heavy duty gloves).

- Inspect instruments.
- Instruct assistant to remove any sharps, gauze, etc. & dispose of items in specific trash.
- Volunteer will clean/wrap personal items in special sterilization wrap
- Doctor's assistant will be responsible for labeling wrap with the following information:  
Area 7, doctor's name, and telephone number.
- Volunteer will check sterilization wrap for doctor's information.
- Volunteer will inspect dirty instruments/place in ultrasonic/wrap/ sterilize items.
- Volunteer will be responsible for returning instruments to Area 7- sterile area.
- Doctor's assistant will be responsible for picking up sterile instruments.