

Immediacy

Policy

It is the policy of this organization to define immediacy per AAMI guideline ST 79: 2017.

Purpose

The definition of immediacy in this organization will assist with sterilization processing steps.

Definition

- **Immediacy**, rather than being defined according to a specific time frame, is established through the critical analysis and expert collaboration of the health care team.

Procedure

- **Multidisciplinary Team**
 - A multidisciplinary approach is used to define the term immediacy in the organization. Team members may include OR, SPD, Infection Control, Risk Management and Administration. Minutes will reflect the adoption of the principle of immediacy by the team.
 - Communication and documentation of the orientation and training of staff members in the OR and SPD to sterilization processes involving immediacy.
- **Adoption of Term Immediacy**
 - Immediacy is recognized when a sterilization process involves the use of a packaging system that cannot be stored for future use. If the sterile barrier system (rigid container, peel pack, and/or wrap) does not have the capability of being stored for future use, the record will be documented as an IUSS cycle.
 - Time is not a determinant in naming a cycle as IUSS.
 - The organization uses event related practices and recognizes that once an item is sterilized it is considered sterile until an event occurs to render it unsterile or compromised.
- **Considerations**
 - All policies will be reviewed on an annual basis.
 - See additional policies for further detail on sterilization policies and practices.