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Owner: *Dir Perioperative Services*

Policy Area: *Sterile Processing*

References:

Applicability: *XXX Regional Medical Center*

Event Related Sterility Assurance, #XXXXXXXX

Document Type: *Policy*

SUPERSEDES: *3/10, 4/07, 02/19/07, 12/03, 8/03, 10/25, 3/99, 5/95, 9/94*

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to prove criteria and guidelines for sterile packaging and storage in the use of hospital and/or manufactured sterile items which are enclosed in a plastic/paper peel pouch, non-woven sterilization wrap, and instrument containers. In regard to items labeled "Single Use" or "Disposable" refer to "Re-Use Policy XX.X.XX."

POLICY:

The expiration of an item is defined in several ways:

- A. Manufacturer's Instructions for Use dictates whether or not a product has a shelf life (i.e. wraps, peel packs, filters, etc.)
 - A. The expire date for commercially prepared items will be as indicated on the package by the company, unless the integrity of the packaged material has been compromised.
 - B. The integrity of the product must still be intact (i.e. tears, opened, wet, improper packaging technique, etc.)
 - C. Improper storage or handling would render it unsterilized (i.e. humidity or temperature issues, hazardous area exposure, etc.)
 - a. Any sterile item that is being removed or transported out of the sterile storage areas must be in proper packaging (i.e. dust cover, closed container, closed cart, etc.)
 - D. Hospital sterilized items properly wrapped and processed will be considered sterile and safe for patient use as long as the package integrity is not compromised.
 - E. All items will include a sterilization indicator/integrator both internally and externally. If the

external indicator's integrity is no longer intact, the item should be considered unsterilized.

REFERENCES:

"Recommended practices for Packaging Systems," in *Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices For Inpatient and Ambulatory Settings* Denver:AORN, Inc, 2013

"Recommended practices for Sterilization," in *Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices for Inpatient and Ambulatory Settings* Denver:AORN, Inc, 2013.

Retzlaff, K., Llewellyn, I. & Wiggy, Z. (2013). Recommended Practices for Packaging Systems, *Perioperative standards and Recommended Practices, 2013 Edition, Denver, Co: AORN.*

Retzlaff, K., Llewellyn, I. & Wiggy, Z. (2013). Recommended Practices for Sterilization, *Perioperative standards and Recommended Practices, 2013 Edition, Denver, Co: AORN.*

Attachments

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Approver	Date
XXXXX	01/2020
XXXXX	01/2020
XXXXX Dir Perioperative Svcs	12/2019

Applicability

XXXXXXXX Regional Medical Center