



Current Status: Active

PolicyStat ID: 7149128



**Origination:** 05/1990  
**Effective:** 01/2020  
**Last Approved:** 01/2020  
**Last Revised:** 01/2020  
**Next Review:** 01/2023  
**Owner:** *Roshelle Satterthwait: Dir  
 Perioperative Svcs*  
**Policy Area:** *Sterile Processing*  
**References:**  
**Applicability:** *WA - Kadlec Regional Medical  
 Center*

## Steam Sterilization 32.14.02

**Document Type:** Policy

**SUPERSEDES:** 1/10, 2/07, 3/99, 6/96, 8/95, 5/90,

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the use and function of the steam sterilizers.

The steam sterilizers are used to sterilize items using a pre-vacume or gravity system. It achieves this by minimum contact times at a certain temperature and pressure. These perimeters are outlined by each items manufactures IFU's.

### PROCEDURE:

Starting a Cycle

1. Keep the door closed when not in use.
2. A biological indicator (BI) is included on every load.
3. Place the BI over the drain in the sterilizer.
4. Ensure the items are in the appropriate packaging. (i.e. steam peel packs, wraps, containers)
5. Load sterilizer cart appropriately
  - Basins on edge
  - Peel packs vertical in racks, place paper between plastic for air and steam circulation
  - Wrapped items above canisters
  - Never put rigid containers above wrapped or peel packaged items, this can cause the packs to become wet through condensation and run off.
  - Never overload sterilizer, allow room for air and steam circulation (Carts are designed to hold 1000 pounds)
  - Never allow items to touch chamber walls
6. Select appropriate sterilization cycle based on needs of items being sterilized
7. Scan all items into the tracking system.

8. Align directly in front of open chamber door with the transfer carriage, move forward until the locking mechanism latches. Check to see if the transfer carriage is locked by pulling back on the transfer carriage. It should not move away from the sterilizer
9. Press and hold the center release knob on the transfer carriage, pushing the rack forward past the locking mechanism, before letting go of the knob, push the rack forward until it stops.
10. Release the transfer carriage from the locking mechanism.
11. Close sterilizer door (by utilization of the "close door button")
12. Be sure the correct cycle is selected and press the start button (green triangle)

Details are to be included in the department's Standard Work Instructions.

#### Cycle Completion

1. On completion of cycles, alarm will sound, press white triangle with red X and sterilizer will silence.
2. Open door, remove biological, close the door up to 6 inches, and allow load to sit 15-30 minutes, then remove load.
3. Pull out and let cool until the items are within 5 degrees of room temperature.
4. Review record to assure sterilization cycle complete.

Details are to be included in the department's Standard Work Instructions.

Getinge.(2005) 733HC Vacuum/Steam Steam Sterilizer User Manual, Rochester:

## Attachments

No Attachments

## Approval Signatures

Approver	Date
Kirk Harper: CNO	01/2020
Heather Shipman: Executive Assistant	01/2020
Roshelle Satterthwait: Dir Perioperative Svcs	12/2019

## Applicability

WA - Kadlec Regional Medical Center