

IPC.18 The hospital ensures efficient and quality sterilization service.

- IPC.18.1 The hospital provides central sterilization service.
- IPC.18.2 There are policies and procedures for the central sterilization service.
 - IPC.18.2.1 The policies and procedures are consistent with scientific guidelines.
 - IPC.18.2.2 The policies and procedures are reviewed and approved by the infection prevention and control committee.
 - IPC.18.2.3 There are policies and procedures on transportation, cleansing, decontamination, disinfection, sterilization, storage, and recall of sterile items.
- IPC.18.3 Contaminated items are transported in safe closed containers with biohazards sign from the outside to prevent spills or aerosolization of infectious fluids.

IPC.19 Central sterilization service staff are qualified by education, certification, or training in the field of sterilization and disinfection.

- IPC.19.1 The supervisor of the central sterilization service has experience, knowledge, and certification in sterilization practice and is registered with the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties as a central sterilization service technician.
- IPC.19.2 Central sterilization service staff are qualified by education, certification, or training in the field of sterilization and disinfection.
- IPC.19.3 Staff are able to explain the sterilizers' operation and to name the main parameters to be followed: sterilization time, temperature, and pressure.
- IPC.19.4 Proper sterilization parameters are recorded.
 - IPC.19.4.1 Records include load list, daily function test, spore test results, lot number, and name of operator.
 - IPC.19.4.2 Sterilization records are kept for one year to allow inspection.
- IPC.19.5 Sterilization time and temperature cycles used are in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.

IPC.20 The central sterilization service design supports its functions.

- IPC.20.1 There is a uni-directional flow of traffic from dirty to clean areas (i.e. decontamination area ? packing ? sterilization ? storage areas).
- IPC.20.2 Traffic control signs are in place.
- IPC.20.3 The decontamination area is under negative pressure with exhaust to the outside; the clean area is under positive pressure with at least ten air cycles/hour.
- IPC.20.4 There is complete physical separation between the decontamination area, the area where clean items are packaged and sterilized, and the area where sterilized items are stored.

IPC.21 The central sterilization service has measures to ensure staff safety and proper function.

- IPC.21.1 Personal protective equipment are available and used during decontamination (heavy-duty gloves, waterproof aprons, facemask, plastic durable boots and goggles or face shield).
- IPC.21.2 If manual cleaning is performed, at least two sinks are used, one for soaking and cleaning and one for rinsing before the final wash.