

**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.