

# Immediate Use Steam Sterilization (IUSS) in the OR

## Site Applicability:

St. Paul's Hospital Operating Room

## Practice Level

RN and LPN who have had orientation to and work in the OR

## Need to Know:

- Nursing responsibilities are within the scope of all perioperative nurses.
- All steps in reprocessing must be completed by an MDRD technician.
- IUSS must only be used for emergency sterilization when there is no replacement for the medical device.
- IUSS must not be used to compensate for an inventory shortage or scheduling issues.
- IUSS must not be used for implants.
- Flash Paks and the blank Flash Sterilization Record (OR 082) forms are housed in MDRD.

## Procedure:

1. Send the item to be sterilized to MDRD via the dirty dumbwaiter. Notify the MDRD RN or in-charge technician that the item is on its way.
2. Turnaround time will depend on the extent of cleaning and decontamination needed.
3. The MDRD technician will perform the IUSS, either in MDRD or in the Core.
4. When the cycle is complete, the MDRD technician will bring the Flash Pak to the theatre door.
5. The circulating nurse will receive the Flash Pak, open it, and confirm the chemical integrator indicates exposure to the steam.
6. The scrub nurse will remove the item from the Flash Pak and place it on the sterile field.
7. The circulating nurse returns the Flash Pak to the MDRD technician.
8. The MDRD technician removes the biological indicator (BI) and places it in a biohazard bag. The BI and the Flash Sterilization Record are returned to MDRD via the clean dumbwaiter.
9. The Flash Pak is returned to MDRD via the dirty dumbwaiter.
10. The MDRD notifies the OR charge nurse of the BI result via telephone as soon as it is available (approximately 1 hour).

### Documentation:

1. The Flash Sterilization Record (OR 082) is used.
2. The MDRD technician(s) completes the first two sections of the form, including attaching the sterilizer printout to both copies of the form.
3. The OR nurse attaches patient labels to both copies of the form, and completes the third section.
4. The technician takes the form and BI back to MDRD.
5. Once the BI result has been obtained, the technician completes the last section of the form and returns the appropriate copy (copies) to the OR as per the instructions on the form.
6. In Cerner **Perioperative Doc**, add the Immediate Use Steam Sterilization segment. The circulating nurse completes a PSLS report. (Choose the CNL of the service as the handler.)

### References:

1. [British Columbia Ministry of Health \(December, 2011\). Best practice guidelines for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of critical and semi-critical medical devices in BC health authorities.](#)
2. [British Columbia Ministry of Health \(2011\). Policy communique 2011-03. Reprocessing of medical devices.](#)
3. ORNAC. (2021). *ORNAC standards, guidelines, and position statements for perioperative registered nurses* (15<sup>th</sup> ed.), 2-92 to 2-94.

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