A Message from the Executive Director
By: Nancy Chobin, RN, AAS, ACSP, CSPDM

The CBSPD continues to move forward with new and expanded services for certified personnel. We have actively been assisting New York to legislate mandatory licensing for sterile processing personnel. We have also provided information to Ohio, Georgia, Michigan and other states wishing to pursue the goal of mandatory certification.

Anyone who thinks mandatory certification is not going to happen is unrealistic. The job performed by sterile processing personnel is highly skilled, technical and sophisticated. The job has changed so much that competent personnel are essential for patient safety. The CBSPD is ready to provide whatever assistance is asked to promote certification world-wide.

Continue your education and be proud to wear your certification pin. For those who think you are “foolish” because you became certified when it was not required, you will be smiling when mandatory certification comes and you are ahead of the game! We are starting to see increases in salaries here in NJ tied to certification so salaries commensurate with the job responsibilities is finally happening!

Mexico, Colombia (South America) and Peru are both active with certification. Costa Rica, Guatemala and San Salvador are all in the process of developing training programs for certification. Puerto Rico has contacted the CBSPD for information how to start certification.

In September, I will travel to Cartagena, Colombia to present at the Fourth National Congress of Sterile Processing Professionals. The topics I will be presenting are “The Importance of Education for Sterile Processing Professionals” and “Management of the Sterile Processing Department”.

The CBSPD will complete the Job Analysis Survey for GI Scope processors on June 12. This is the first step in the development of a sixth exam. The CBSPD and the GI community are very excited about this.

As you enjoy your summer, take some time to relax and revitalize yourself. You work in a demanding job with a lot of stress so vacation time is needed to “de-stress”. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

BOARD POSITION – The CBSPD Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Lanfrey Funches (technician representative) from the Board. Lanfrey served the technicians proudly and he will be missed. Therefore, the CBSPD is soliciting nominations for the technician representative to the CBSPD Board. To be eligible the candidate must be 1) currently certified as a TECHNICIAN and working as a TECHNICIAN, 2) provide a letter from their department manager that they will be able to attend one Board meeting a year (travel Thursday, Board meeting Friday and Saturday) and contribute to the CBSPD Newsletter. You can nominate yourself or someone else. Visit the CBSPD website (www.sterileprocessing.org), or call the CBSPD office for more information.

AAMI UPDATE – ST-79 (Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization and Sterility Assurance) is being updated. Those who previously purchased it will get this update free of charge. The Ethylene Oxide document is still being worked on. The Water Quality document is not completed yet.

AORN – COUNT SHEETS – As a member of the AORN Recommended Practices Committee, I worked on the RP For Packaging. While conducting research for this RP, it was determined that the practice of placing count sheets inside trays/sets has some questions. None of the paper or toner manufacturers ever validated the use of their products inside sterilizers. As a precaution, and without scientific evidence that this practice is safe, AORN has recommended that count sheets NOT be placed inside sets. AORN is working with the paper and toner manufacturers to provide scientific data if this practice can be safe. Each facility needs to examine their practice.

3M/SPS Medical Scholarships

The Board of Directors of the CBSPD want to congratulate everyone that was awarded scholarships in February and May from both 3M and SPS Medical. A list of all winners is posted on our website on the CS Scholarships page.

As of this time, we still have some 3M scholarships remaining for August and 3M is offering 15 more scholarships for November. Check out our downloads page on our website or call our office for a 3M application. SPS Medical will continue to offer their scholarships for all of the CBSPD exams. An SPS application can be obtained on our website or by calling SPS at 1-800-722-1529.
As we begin the summer of 2007 the CEU committee wants to extend its congratulations to all newly certified individuals and those that have recently re-certified with the CBSPD. Obtaining CEU’s has become easier as the years have gone by because of the numbers of companies and individuals that provide written and published in-services that meet our criteria.

We want to thank HPN and Managing Infection Control for seeking out individuals to provide these informative and up to date programs, many of which the CBSPD CEU committee have pre-approved. When you are using one of these in-services please read the “Obtaining CEU’s” section, which will have a statement regarding CBSPD pre-approval.

Pre-approved in-services do not have to be submitted by you to the CEU Committee. Verification of your completion of the in-service with a passing score of 70 on the post test must be submitted when applying for re-certification. This verification would be a signed certificate or in-service listing from your department manager (on institution letterhead), education director or a designated individual responsible for staff education. This certificate, or list, needs to include your name, the name and date of the publica-
tion, the title of the in-service and the date completed by you. Each of these in-services can be used only once during a five (5) year certification period and must be used within five (5) years of the original publication date.

If you need to see a sample of an acceptable in-service listing go to our web site, www.sterileprocessing.org, and go to “Web Links for CEUs” and click on the statement “Tired of too many certificates for journals” near the top of the screen. This sample form will show you how you can document the journal in-services that can then be sent in with your re-certification application.

CEU Column Continued

The professional journals that provide pre-approved printed in-services are:

Healthcare Purchasing News (HPN)
7650 So. Tamiami Trail
Suite 10
Sarasota, FL. 34231
941-927-9345 ext 203
www.hpnonline.com

Managing Infection Control
PO Box 25310
Scottsdale, AZ. 85255
480-585-0455
www.managing-infectioncontrol.com

We also want to remind you that you can earn CEU’s by submitting questions to our Item Review Committee, preparing and presenting CS/SPD educational programs to groups (other than departmental in-services), having a paper or article on CS/SPD topics published, and chairing or serving on committees or holding office in a local, state and/or national level of a CS/SPD related healthcare professional organization. Adult or Continuing education and college courses can also be used for continuing education contact hours. For more information on each of these opportunities you can download a copy of the Continuing Education Protocols from our website www.sterileprocessing.org or request a copy be sent to you by contacting the office 908-454-9555.

Important Information: When requesting approval for in-services provided at work or for attending programs not pre-approved you must submit the request within 6 (six) weeks of the presentation. Requests for approvals of programs and/or in-services attended more than six weeks earlier will not be approved. We regret the need to enforce this deadline but the increasing number of submissions for approvals of “older” programs/in-services has become overwhelming and logistically impossible to accomplish.

Remember, when you are submitting a CEU request you must provide us your Name, Title, Institution, Address, Zip Code as well as the information regarding the in-service or program you wish us to review. Some common mistakes on CEU requests are incomplete addresses, titles of a program/in-service, time breakdowns of a program, goals and objectives of the material covered in the program/in-service. Any missing information delays the committee in reviewing the request.

If you do not receive a response from the CEU committee regarding a submission within 6 (six) weeks of the submission please contact the office to request an investigation – call the office (908-454-9555) or e-mail us at CBSPD@att.net and provide the title of the program, name of person submitting, when the program was given, when the submission was sent and whether it was sent through our website, through the mail or faxed. You may be asked to re-submit the request if we do not have a record of receipt.

We hope that this information is helpful to you in your pursuit of maintaining your certification. If you have any questions for the CEU Committee please submit them to the Office and we will be happy to answer them, and if we feel the answers would be helpful to others will include them in our next column.

Have a great summer, but remember if you do a single 1 (one) hour in-service a month you will have more than enough credits for your re-certification and will be able to keep up with the new trends and changes in our profession. ♦
Developing a Clinical Ladder for Sterile Processing Professionals

By: Brian Gallant, CSIP, CSPDT

1. **Background** - Over the years, the scope and nature of perioperative services have expanded and become much more complex. Volume continues to grow and new surgical specialty instrumentation is introduced into each clinical service at an increasing rate. The need to educate and develop all of our central sterile supply staff to remain competitive and to consistently deliver high-quality services has never been greater. How do we encourage, support and reward our staff who are expected to put forth the extra effort to be technologically current as volume increases? One solution is to explore a career ladder specifically tailored to central sterile supply employees.

Presemtly, hospitals across the country have career ladders for nurses and scrub technicians. A career ladder tells the staff that there is room for advancement for those who are willing to put in the extra effort and recognize them as valued members of the organization. The Central Sterile Supply management team at Yale-New Haven Hospital has identified the need for advanced training and education to support daily operations. In Central Sterile Supply we are providing enhanced career and developmental opportunities for our staff, so we have improve recruitment and retention of current staff at this world-renowned 944-bed teaching hospital.

2. **The career ladder developmental process** - A team set out to explore the possibility of establishing a career ladder in central sterile supply. We worked very closely with human resources and developed a proposal for a three-level career ladder with specific academic expectations, additional job responsibilities, standards of performance, longevity expectations and specific salary levels.

   **a. Certification requirements** - The first component of the career ladder is professional association accreditation. Accreditation provides the structure for staff to meet defined professional academic standards. For professional recognition, nurses must master a specialized body of knowledge and take a certification exam and conform to best practice (the technical and ethical standards of their profession). These best practices are created by experienced nurse colleagues who monitor practice, provide research for current and anticipated best practice, and make recommendations for institutions across the country.

   There are two accrediting bodies for central sterile employees: Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) (affiliated with American Society for Healthcare Central Service Professionals) and the International Association of Healthcare Central Supply and Materials Management for Central Sterile Processing (IAHCSMM). It is important to be affiliated with one of these accrediting bodies because they provide the foundation by which the profession is measured, namely standards of practice. Both accrediting bodies provide training materials and have programs in place to facilitate preparation for the certification exam. When it is time for re-certification both CBSPD and IAHCSMM require members to have approved continuing education units (CEU) prior to being certified. It is a common practice among professional organizations to require that their members complete pre-approved CEUs prior to re-certification.

   Yale-New-Haven choose CBSPD because it has certification exams for sterile processing distribution technician, surgical instrument processor, ambulatory surgical technician, supervisor and manager. The “sterile processing distribution technician certification” is applicable to YNHH’s Tech II position and “surgical instrument processor certification” is applicable to YNHH’s Tech III position. We appreciated that CBSPD had additional certification exams for ambulatory, supervisor and manager which can be implemented into our career ladder at a later date.

   **b. Job responsibilities** - The second component to our career ladder is career responsibilities. We reviewed, revised and updated current job descriptions and created one new job description. The career ladder has now three levels: CSS Tech I, CSS Tech II, and CSS Tech III.

   The Central Sterile Supply Tech I job description required the least change. It clearly specifies expectations for job performance in all key central sterile supply activities: decontamination, assembly, sterilization and distribution. This job supports the overall goal of ensuring the department distributes high-quality sterile products in an efficient manner to effectively meet the requirements of its customers.

   The Central Sterile Supply Tech II has all of the same requirements of the Tech I and added the following: this individual assists with teaching new staff or re-training fellow staff and has to be competent to perform all duties in central sterile supply independently. The Tech II supports department quality assurance work in all areas of central sterile supply including the sterilization at the beginning and end of each shift and monitoring kit quality. They are expected to be “in charge” during the off-shift, weekends and when there is no supervisor on duty. While in charge, they can perform some administrative work, such as making up a daily assignment sheet, creating a priority processing list, reviewing and printing the operating room schedule, generating appropriate pick sheets and ensuring accurate and timely picking of all scheduled and add-on case carts. The Tech II is a liaison to the operating room in the event of a problem, where they can reassign staff to get the problem resolved and page the supervisor or manager as needed. The Tech II must have excellent communication and medical terminology skills and have the ability to solve problems in potentially stressful situations.

   The Central Sterile Supply Tech III job description has all of the same requirements as the Tech II but adds the following: the Tech III works closely with the service-specific cluster leader and makes any necessary instrument set changes under the supervision of the central sterile supply manager. The Tech III is a direct link from central sterile supply to the operating room, helping to maintain high-quality standards by giving specific

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**February & May 2007 CBSPD Certification Exam Stats**

(Passing names listed on our website)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Total Sat for Exam</th>
<th>Total Passing</th>
<th>Total Failing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>766 (74%)</td>
<td>274 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6 (24%)</td>
<td>19 (76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11 (65%)</td>
<td>6 (35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrument Processor</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34 (49%)</td>
<td>35 (51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulatory Surgery</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10 (48%)</td>
<td>11 (52%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Key to In-service Quiz:** 1:T, 2:F, 3:T, 4:T, 5:T, 6:F, 7:F, 8:T, 9:T, 10:T
in-service to staff, doing quality assurances on instrument sets and case carts, and trouble-shooting and problem analysis for their specific surgical service. They attend the monthly operating room service-specific team meeting and attend one external seminar per year. They are role models for other central sterile supply staff to follow and display professional behaviors at all times.

c. Compensation - The third career ladder component reinforces positive behavior with appropriate compensation. Salary increases are given for each pre-approved certification the employee passes. Once the employee meets the prerequisites and is promoted to the next level for advancement, he or she receives another salary increase. Human resources approved the job we did linking the different certifications with additional job responsibilities. The link between higher education and increased responsibilities helps our staff remain competitive and deliver high-quality services.

Compensation considerations should include a marked assessment of similar positions in your geographical area as well as within your organization so involve your human resources compensation staff early. You must also consider how the position level compares with other related positions, possibly within the same work unit or department, e.g. surgical technologist and other operating room support roles.

3. Summary - As surgeries become more complex and the patients are more acutely ill or injured, the work load of the perioperative team becomes more challenging. The operating room nurse is assured that all the instrumentation being used on his or her patient has been cleaned in the decontamination area, tested for function in the assembly area, has met all the perimeters of sterilization and has been stored safely and appropriately.

In the central sterile supply field, staff must possess a specialized body of knowledge to perform the job correctly and efficiently. The central sterile supply employee has to understand this specialized body of knowledge to pass the Sterile Processing and Distribution Technician certification examination. Being a professional, the central sterile supply employee conforms to best practice - the technical and ethical standards of his profession. For the certified central sterile supply employee to maintain his or her certification, he or she should acquire a specified number of CEUs per year, by going to conferences, spending time with other professionals who continue to better themselves by keeping up with the ever increasing knowledge of the decontam, assembly, sterilization and distribution, and then bringing this information to their home hospital. In the Criterion, Jan. 2004, Nancy Chobin, R.N., CSPDM (CBSPD chairperson) stated, “We need to convince the public and hospital administrators that a competent sterile processing team will reduce costs, improve patient safety and increase surgeon satisfaction.”

The need to educate and develop all of our CSS staff to remain competitive and to consistently deliver high-quality services has never been greater. By working closely with human resources, at Yale-New Haven, we were able to develop a three-level career ladder carefully designed for central sterile supply. Each level of the career ladder has specific academic expectations, additional job responsibilities and additional monetary rewards. We believe this ladder will also encourage the staff’s growth and development, build solid employee relations and reduce staff turnover. We feel our career ladder will enhance the services that central sterile supply can provide to the operating room and other patient care areas. A career ladder tells the staff that there is room for advancement for those who are willing to invest the extra effort and that they are valued members of the Yale-New-Haven perioperative team.

If you are interested in this career ladder and would like additional information to help develop a career ladder specific to your institution please, e-mail me at Brian.Gallant@ynhh.org. Remember, if we want to make changes in our profession we are the only ones who can make them.

YNHH CSS Career Ladder

CSS Tech. I Prerequisites
- Education: high school graduate or equivalent
- Experience: minimum 3 months or CST
- Competent to perform all duties in CSS independently (decontam, assembly, sterilization and distribution)

CSS Tech. II Prerequisites
- 1 year of experience at YNHH as a CSS Tech I
- Minimum 3.0 most recent annual evaluation
- No written disciplinary actions
- Current “Sterile processing distribution technician certification” from CBSPD
- Successfully complete Tech II training class

CSS Tech. III Prerequisite
- 1 year as CSS Tech II position at YNHH
- Minimum 3.4 most recent annual evaluation
- No current verbal or written discipline actions
- Current “Surgical Instrument Processor Certification” from CBSPD
- Successful completion of a CSS project
- Successful completion of cluster specific shadowing program with CST in the OR

CSS Tech. I Job Responsibilities
- Decontamination, assembly, sterilization and distribution
- Documentation: i.e.: missing list, shift report, etc.
- Meet or exceed production standards: i.e.: kit and case cart production
- Demonstrate adherence to safety standards, blood and bodily fluid precautions and hand washing.
- OR. Scrub Tech. must complete independent study of Training Manual for HC CSS Tech within 3 months of employment
- Successfully complete the four annual CSS Competencies
**Surgical Instrument Cleaning Brushes**

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- General Instruments
- Bone Reamers
- Suction Tubes
- Laparoscopic Instruments

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www.spectrumsurgical.com
Sterile Processing Article Continued

CSS Tech. II Job Responsibilities
Same duties as a Technician I plus:
- Train and develop new and current staff
- Understand and utilizes the missing list and create priority list
- Independently run the floor on weekends and do QA of all four areas of CSS
- Review and generate OR schedule, prepare DPC for picking add-ons and next day case
- Ensure accurate and timely picking of case cart
- Responding to problems in the OR

CSS Technician III Job Responsibilities
Same duties as a Technician II plus:
- Ambassador to a specific service in the OR e.g. Ortho., Gyn., Neuro., Ent., Plastics, Gen., Trau., CAR., P.V., Trans., Pedi. and AMOR
- Daily service specific case cart Q/A
- Respond monthly ser. Specific Team meeting
- Expedite tray changes under supervision of manager
- Attend one service specific seminar 1 per year
- Monitor instrument refurbishment for service
- Become the service specific instrument resource person for CSS
- Plan and conduct a minimum of one in-service for CSS Staff per year

*** Upon completion of a recognized CSS Certification Program from CBSPD, “Sterile Processing Distribution Technician Certification” or “Surgical Instrument Processor Certification” the employee receives a 3 % salary adjustment.

*** Upon advancement to Tech. II status, staff will receive an additional 4% salary adjustment.

*** Upon advancement to Tech. III status, staff will receive an additional 4% salary adjustment.

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**The old YNHH CSS Salary System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Position</strong></th>
<th><strong>Increase</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSS TECH I ➔ CSS TECH II</td>
<td>5% of wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Period</strong></td>
<td><strong>min. 1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**The new YNHH CSS Salary System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CSS TECH I ➔ CSS TECH II</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Period</strong></td>
<td><strong>min. 1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Passed sterile processing distribution tech. certification 3% Working in new position 4%
Wage increase 7%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Position</strong></th>
<th><strong>Increase</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSS TECH II ➔ CSS TECH III</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Period</strong></td>
<td><strong>min. 1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Passed surgical instrument processor certification 3% Working in new position 4%
Wage increase 7%

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**All certification exams are provided by CBSPD (Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution). Remember this does not include annual review increases that employee would receive normally. ♦**

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**PRE-APPROVED IN-SERVICE**

**Sterrad NX System**

By: Angela Joyner, CSPDS

*Introduction: The need to process instruments quickly has always been a challenge for OR and SPD personnel, the limitations of traditional sterilization methods, such as ETO and Steam led ASP (Advanced Sterilization Products) researchers to develop an alternative method of sterilization for heat and moisture sensitive devices. This technology uses a combination of hydrogen peroxide vapor and low-temperature gas plasma to sterilize medical instruments. The Sterrad NX System an advanced low-temperature gas plasma sterilizer. The cycle temperature is less than 131°F (55°C). It has the capability to produce sterile instruments ready-for-use in 28 minutes and it is designed to sterilize a wide range of instruments safely and quickly, such as single channel flexible endoscopes, semi-rigid ureteroscopes, cameras, light cords, batteries, power drills, rigid scopes, and much more. Unlike steam sterilization, there is no need to wait for instruments to cool down before using, this means processed instruments are available immediately after the final cycle. This helps keep the OR on schedule.

The Sterrad NX is similar to the larger Sterrad system 200, with the major difference being a new vaporization system that removes most of the water from the hydrogen peroxide. The reduced amount of water improves diffusion of peroxide into lumens and allows a broader range of instruments to be processed. Its compact size makes it ideal for point-of-use placement. It can be placed on a countertop or mobile cart providing it can support the weight of 275 lbs.

The Sterrad NX also has network connectivity capability, built-in diagnostics, an option for bar-code scanning, and a hydrogen peroxide monitor that measures the concentration of hydrogen peroxide (H2O2). The network connectivity allows the facility to connect the sterilizer to its mainframe computer system so that data can be downloaded for quality control purposes. The diagnostic tool helps the user or service technician to troubleshoot the system, pinpoint the cause of cycle cancellations or failed components if the need should arise. It also helps with education for users by identifying the cause of failed cycles, thus reducing user errors in the future. It can also be connected to an instrument tracking system where bar-code technology can be utilized.

The Sterrad NX has 2 cycles available, the standard 28 minute cycle and the advanced 38 minute cycle. The vast majority of medical instruments can be processed in the standard cycle. The advanced cycle is used for more challenging instruments such as single-channel flexible endoscopes. Remember, when more than one type of medical device is being processed, the cycle selection should be based on the device that is more difficult to sterilize and the device manufacturer’s written instructions must always be followed. The Sterrad NX is designed for sterilizing both metal and nonmetal medical devices (plastics, and elastomers) at low temperatures. It can also sterilize general instruments and instruments that have diffusion-restricted spaces such as the hinged portion of forceps and scissors.

Medical devices with the following materials and dimensions can be processed in the standard cycle: Single-channel stainless steel lumens with:

- An inside diameter of 1 mm or larger and a length of 150mm or shorter

Continued on Page 6
**An inside diameter of 2 mm or larger and a length of 400mm or shorter**  
Medical devices with the following materials and dimensions can be processed in the advanced cycle:  
*Single-channel stainless steel lumens with:*  
*An inside diameter of 1mm or larger and a length of 500mm or shorter*  
*Single-channel flexible endoscopes with polyethylene and Teflon lumens with:*  
*An inside diameter of 1mm or larger and a length of 850mm or shorter, only one single-channel flexible endoscope can be processed per cycle with or without a silicone mat. No additional load.*  
Scopes with more than one lumen (typically GI Scopes) and those longer than 850MM cannot be processed in the Sterrad NX. Other devices and materials that should not be processed are those with dead-end lumens, cellulose material, liquids, linen, paper load-control stickers, count sheets, and standard adhesive labels.

All devices must be clean and dry prior to processing. Hinged instruments should be arranged in the open position to allow the sterilant to contact all areas. Device that can be disassembled should be.

When packaging items for sterilization in the Sterrad NX – Mylar pouches, polypropylene wrap or rigid sterilization containers cleared by the FDA for use in hydrogen peroxide gas plasma sterilizers. A chemical indicator specifically designed for use with the gas plasma system should be placed inside each tray or pouch and external indicator tape specific to this process should be used on each package along with a lot control identifier.

As with all sterilization processes each cycle needs to be documented with the cycle conditions during the sterilization cycle.

Each Sterrad NX cassette is filled to the same specifications as the Sterrad 100S, which is a fill volume of 1850 ± 50µl and the concentration is 58.0% to 59.5% hydrogen peroxide. Once a cassette is inserted, it can remain in the sterilizer for ten days. After the tenth day, it will be automatically be ejected into the cassette collection box. This ensures that the concentration of peroxide is adequate for proper sterilization. The parameters for sterilization are time, temperature, and hydrogen peroxide gas plasma. The Sterrad NX has cycle consist of the following phases:

*Vacuum*: this phase removes all air from the chamber and packages and reduces the pressure to below atmospheric pressure.

*Injection*: once the correct pressure has been achieved, the release of hydrogen peroxide from the cassette into the chamber.

*Diffusion*: the chamber is returned to atmospheric pressure and H2O2 is pushed into the small crevices and lumens of devices.

*Plasma*: when radiofrequency energy ionizes the H2O2 causing gas plasma to be formed to destroy organisms.

*Injection, Diffusion, and Plasma* phases are repeated a second time.

*Vent*: air is vented into the chamber through bacterial HEPA filters and ends the cycle.

The CycleSure Biological Indicator, which is specific to the hydrogen peroxide gas plasma system, provides evidence that proper sterilization conditions were achieved by challenging the sterilization system with the most highly resistant organism to the gas plasma process, Geobacillus Stearothermophilus. A biological test must be done daily (preferably each cycle), with the first load of the day. The biological is to be incubated at 56°C (133°F) for 48 hours and compared with an unprocessed incubated biological from the same lot which is used as a control. The CycleSure BI is easy-to-read and interpret. The bacterial growth medium will remain purple if the spores have been killed. The appearance of a yellow color or turbidity in the medium indicates bacterial growth. The control should always be yellow in color to indicate that the growth medium is viable. Biological results need to be documented.

**References:**

www.sterrad.com/Products_&_Services/STERRAD/Technology

The Basics of Sterile Processing, First Edition: Sterile Processing University, LLC; Copyright 2006, Chapter 8: Sterilization.

AAMI ST58:2005, Chemical sterilization and high level disinfection in healthcare facilities

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**POST-TEST**

**Sterrad NX System**

This Pre-Approved In-service is worth **1 CEU** with a Passing score of 70. Your manager must generate a certificate or letter of completion on facility letterhead with your name, signature of your manager, date of test, title of test, and name of journal (Criterion). You will keep this with your re-certification records.

**DO NOT SEND THIS TEST TO THE CBSPD OFFICE.**

1. The two cycles for the Sterrad NX are the standard 28 minute cycle and the advanced 38 minute cycle. **True or False**
2. Once the Sterrad NX cycle is complete, you must wait for the items to cool before handling. **True or False**
3. The vaporization system removes most of the water from the hydrogen peroxide to improve diffusion into lumens. **True or False**
4. The Sterrad NX is designed for sterilizing both metal and non-metal medical devices. **True or False**
5. Single channel stainless steel lumens with an inside diameter of 1mm or larger and a length of 150mm or shorter can be processed in the Sterrad NX standard cycle. **True or False**
6. Single channel stainless steel lumens with an inside diameter of 1mm or larger and a length of 500mm or longer can be processed in the Sterrad NX advanced cycle. **True or False**
7. GI scopes can be processed in the Sterrad NX. **True or False**
8. Devices and materials that should not be processed in the Sterrad NX are devices with dead-end lumens, cellulose material, liquids, linen, paper load-control stickers, count sheets, and standard adhesive labels. **True or False**
9. The Sterrad NX cycle phases are vacuum, injection, diffusion, plasma, and vent. **True or False**
10. The CycleSure BI provides evidence that proper sterilization conditions were achieved by challenging the sterilization system with the most highly resistant organism, Geobacillus Stearothermophilus. **True or False**
**Reminder to All Upcoming October Re-certs**

Why retake the exam when after working full time for 5 years, you only need 10 points of education per year to re-certify? If you were originally certified on 10/17/92, 10/18/97 or 10/19/02, you are due for re-certification this October. Please have your completed re-certification packet with payment of $100 into the CBSPD office no later than 10/31/07.

The CBSPD mails out re-certification packets 6 months before you are due to expire. If you have not received your packet yet, please contact our office or print one out from our downloads page at www.sterileprocessing.org.

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**Upcoming Certification Exam Windows And Application Deadlines**

(Within the U.S.)

**Exam Window 1**
August 6-11, 2007

**Application Deadline 1**
July 9, 2007

**Exam Window 2**
November 5-10, 2007

**Application Deadline 2**
October 8, 2007

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**Sterile Processing University, LLC...**

**Need Continuing Education Points?**

**Need to Get Updated in Sterile Processing?**

**Want to Learn About Sterile Processing But There Is No School Nearby or You Do Not Have Time to Attend School?**

Let Sterile Processing University Help You. All Continuing Education modules approved by the CBSPD for continuing education points. A complete Sterile Processing course on line which prepares you for the CBSPD Technician or Ambulatory Surgery certification exam. Also, look for the Second Edition (updated) version of “The Basics of Sterile Processing Textbook” later this year, and try out our new “Basics of Sterile Processing Workbook”. It has over 100 pages of practice questions to help you study for the exams.

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