

## MISSION OF MERCY

### STERILIZATION PROTOCOL

1. Volunteers working in sterilization must be 18 years old and have had their Hepatitis B vaccination.
2. All volunteers scheduled to work in sterilization MUST wear long pants, closed-toed shoes and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate for the job they are performing. Clean gloves will be worn when handling sterile instruments. Safety glasses, masks, gloves and gowns will be worn when working with contaminated instruments.
3. There is no food or beverages, except bottled water on the clinic floor.
4. On set-up afternoon do spore testing of all autoclaves.
5. Establish areas for “Dirty Instrument” drop off and “Clean Instrument Pick-up” for both ADCF instruments and dentists’ personal instruments.
  - a. Dirty instruments should be brought to sterilization in an instrument transport box (a container with a lid. Lids should be either red in color or have the appropriate biohazard label on them.) Providers are not to carry contaminated instruments in their hands across the clinic floor.
  - b. Dirty ADCF Instruments:
    - i. Instruments in cassettes should be placed back in the cassette when dropped off on the dirty instrument table
  - c. Dentists or their assistants are responsible for making sure their personal instruments are identified when they go through sterilization. To ensure this they are to drop off their instruments at “Dirty Personal Instruments” and have the dentist write their name on the sterilization pouch(es). They can retrieve their sterilize instruments at the “Clean Personal Instruments” station.
6. Dental professionals are asked to disengage sharps at the location of their use and dispose of sharps in the nearest sharps container. A sharps container will also be located on the “Dirty Instrument” side in sterilization.
7. Dental professionals are also responsible for disposing of medical waste, teeth and amalgam waste prior to bringing dirty instruments to sterilization.
8. Broken ADCF instruments should be returned to sterilization, DO NOT throw them away.

9. Volunteers delivering instruments to and picking instruments up from sterilization must wear gloves. Once they have dropped off the dirty instruments, they are to remove their gloves, use hand sanitizer and put on clean gloves BEFORE getting sterile instruments for their next procedure.
10. Allow each dentist or assistant only 1 high speed and 1 slow speed handpiece at a time. Try to control hoarding of instruments.
11. Coordinate safe and efficient sterilization of all instruments. A “dirty” person places the instruments in the autoclave and a “clean” person removes them.
12. If you stick yourself or are stuck with an instrument, immediately notify the Sterilization Lead who will follow the Exposure Incident Protocol.
13. Please stagger your lunch breaks. Be sure to let the department lead know how long you will be gone.