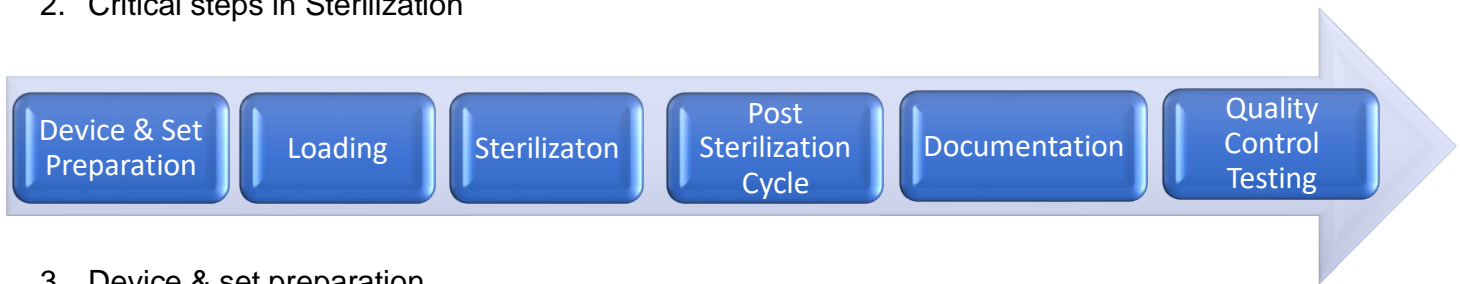


Competency Development Tips Sterilization

Competencies should be based on facility processes, products, equipment, policies, and procedures. Competencies should also reference relevant industry guidance documents and standards, work instructions, job aides and tools, risk assessments, and staff's experience with performing the task. The following are additional items to consider when developing competencies for Sterilization of medical devices.

1. Safety
 - a. PPE appropriate to task
 - b. Safety Data Sheets
2. Critical steps in Sterilization



3. Device & set preparation
 - a. Set, load and cycle type for the devices
 - b. Validated weights for the sterilization process
 - c. Operation of load sticker gun
4. Loading
 - a. Appropriate modality:
 - High temperature
 - Low temperature
 - Liquid chemical sterilization (LCS)
 - b. Loading cart and/or sterilizers
5. Sterilization
 - a. Operation of sterilizers
 - b. Unloading sterilizers with & without carts
 - c. Routine maintenance
 - d. Sterilization cycles/parameters
 - Review of instructions for use (IFU)
 - Cycle selection

**Competency Development Tips
Sterilization**

6. Post Sterilization Cycle

- a. Cool down for steam sterilization
 - Minimizes traffic in cooling area
 - Do not release hot sets
 - Do not allow touching or handling of hot sets
 - Thermal gun load release
- b. Cycle verification:
 - Printout review
 - Chemical indicator interpretation
 - Biological indicator results (if applicable)
 - Load release:
 - Non-implant
 - Implant

7. Documentation

- a. Load log – manual
- b. Instrument tracking system
- c. Results of sterilizer testing included but not limited to
 - Bowie-Dick, Daily Air Removal Test (DART). Include the “Warm-up” cycle, if applicable
 - Leak Test, if applicable
 - Biological Test

8. Quality Control Testing Process

- a. Bowie-Dick Testing including Warm-up, if applicable
- b. Leak testing if applicable
- c. Biological testing
- d. Appropriate product use
 - Bowie-Dick: Test use, placement, frequency, and interpretation
 - Biological indicator/process challenge device/reusable test pack: Use, placement, and frequency
 - Interpretation - Troubleshooting failures
 - Recall procedure