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UC Riverside, School of Medicine Policies and Procedures
Policy Title: Cold Chemical Sterilization
Policy Number: 950-03-008

Responsible Officer:	Clinic Manager
Responsible Office:	Clinical Operations
Origination Date:	02/23/2016
Date of Revision:	05/09/2019; 06/30/2023
Scope:	UCR Health Faculty Practice Sites

I. Policy Summary

To set forth the requirements to ensure the cold chemical sterilization solution is in range to properly sterilize instruments.

II. Policy Text

For cold/chemical sterilization, the product manufacturer's directions will be strictly followed for instrument pre-soaking treatment, solution preparation, solution exposure procedures, safety precautions (e.g., room temperature, area ventilation), and post sterilization processes. Sterilization exposure times and solution expiration date/times must be followed according to product instructions.

III. Responsibilities

Designated Clinical Staff

IV. Procedures

A. Cold (chemical) sterilization is the use of liquid chemical solutions to sterilize medical instruments. Not all items can be sterilized using liquid chemicals. To be effective, this method must be used on items that are relatively smooth, resistant to moisture, and exposed on all sides. This means the item that is placed inside the chemical sterilant must have a shape where the chemical sterilant can contact all of its surfaces at once. If a complex instrument is being placed into the solution it should be fully opened up or disassembled prior to sterilization.

B. Additionally, items placed in the cold sterilant must be clean and dry. All tissues, blood, etc. need to be physically cleaned off of the item prior to being placed into the solution.

C. The item should also be dry so that excess water doesn't dilute the chemical solution and make it an ineffective chemical sterilant.

D. In order to ensure the chemical sterilant is effective the sterilant will be tested in accordance to manufacturer's directions prior to each use and at the start of the clinic day. This test will be recorded on the Cold Chemical Sterilization Solution Log Sheet located in the sterilization location. Information will include:

1. Date the solution was changed
2. Solutions test strip date
3. Results (pass/fail)
4. Initials of the individual performing test

If the solution testing results in a 'fail', the sterilant will be replaced with the corresponding 'date solution was changed' recorded.

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E. Replacement of the sterilant will also be conducted as required by the chemical solution guidelines. This replacement will also be recorded in the 'date solution was changed' section of the Log Sheet.
F. Cold Chemical Sterilization Solution log sheets will be maintained in accordance with the Record Retention Policy and Procedures.

V. Forms/Instructions

Cold Chemical Sterilization Solution Log Sheet

APPROVALS:

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (08/22/2023)

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Attachment A

Cold Chemical Sterilization Solution Log Sheet

Name of Solution:

Practice Location:

Part number:

Lot number:

Date Solution was Changed	Date Solution test strip (according to manufacturer's directions)	Test Results (+) pass / (-) fail Circle one	Tested by: (Initials)
		+ / -	
		+ / -	
		+ / -	
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		+ / -	
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