SterileAware™
in healthcare packaging

5 STEPS TO
STERILE PROCESSING

Achieving a successful outcome in sterile device processing involves following several important steps. Incorrectly processed devices pose a potential infection risk to the patient from contact with a nonsterile device. Reference and follow these important 5 steps in order to help assure your safety and the safety of the patient. It is your responsibility at each step to stay Sterile Aware as a healthcare professional.

1

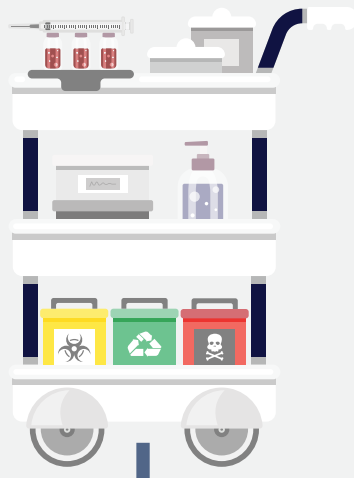
Point of Use treatment (POU)

After use, all soiled and contaminated instruments/devices should be wiped off to remove gross soil using an approved enzymatic cleaner pretreatment.

2

Transport

Transport all sprayed, soiled, and contaminated devices in a closed, leak proof container to prevent damage and loss.



3

Cleaning/ Decontamination

- Donn appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Sort like devices such as instruments, utensils, basins, sharps, non-immersible items, and powered equipment. Sorting of devices facilitates the cleaning process and prevents damage to instruments.
- Dispose single use items
- Pre-rinsing or Pre-soaking reusable devices to loosen soil on the surface of items. Enzymatic detergents are preferred for this process. (In accordance with device manufacturers Information for use (IFU)

- Washing manually and/or mechanically, in accordance with the device manufacturers IFU and by a process specifically designed for instrumentation and or devices.
- Rinsing using critical water (water treated by deionization, reverse osmosis [RO], or distillation.
- Drying in accordance with IFU
- Inspecting devices, upon completion of the cleaning process. Use a lighted magnifier to ensure that they are not damaged and are visually clean. If unclean, start the cleaning process over.

4

Packaging/Assembly

Preparing instruments and or devices for packaging and assembly includes inspection for cleanliness, functionality, and completeness (instruments should not be missing screws, attachments, or other parts). All instruments and or devices should be inspected using a lighted magnifier to visualize defects and limit eye fatigue. Instruments and or devices can be packaged individually (usually in paper-plastic pouches) or organized in procedure trays.

5

Sterilization

Consult with device manufacturers IFU for sterilization instructions.

Note: The device manufacturers IFU must be followed exactly as written each time the device is processed. These steps are not all inclusive and they do not supersede or take the place of the device manufacturers IFU. You should also be aware of any additional state, federal, association or company requirements that may also be required for device processing.