CENTRALIZING IN CENTRAL STERILE PROCESSING

IAHCSMM
Instrumental to Patient Care

WHAT IS MEANT BY CENTRALIZING ?

With over 24 clinics to process instrumentation for, the sterile processing department here found that there were various discrepancies amongst the clinics in how instrumentation was cleaned before drop off in our central sterile area.

How could the central sterile department maintain a consistent product of sterilization throughout our hospital foot print without consistency at point of use?

We will show you what we did!

WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

Each clinic that used instrumentation was performing a series of steps to rinse, decontaminate and prepare instruments for drop off in our department.

Although the effort was great, we found that each clinic had various cleaning processes and challenges, therefore making standardization difficult.

We believe that having a straight forward process that can be streamlined in outlying clinics will ensure compliance and highest standard of care for our patients.

THE PROCESS

Joint Commission has focused its surveys on reprocessing. This includes how cleaning and decontamination is performed. Ensure that staff have the correct supplies, the correct equipment, the correct training and competency based orientation signed off on, and access to the manufacturer's instructions for use is difficult.

Clinic staff have other tasks and duties to perform and often, cleaning and decontamination becomes low on the priority list. Many clinics do not have the capability to ensure decontamination rooms are negative pressure. With a centralized process working correctly, all instrumentation is brought to the central sterile area in a covered bin and all in the same, simplified fashion.

3 STEPS - THAT'S IT!

1. Rinse of blood, fluids under tepid water in decontamination room
2. Place instruments in red bin and completely saturate with hospital approved spray that eliminates dried on bioburden
3. Cover bin and bring to Central Sterile Processing

THE CHALLENGES

-Proposing a change in any process can be a challenge

-Ensuring the correct staff members are given the correct info at the correct time was a challenge

-Looking at Standard Operating Procedures can be time consuming and difficult if each area has various sink set-ups and a variety of space constraints

CHALLENGES (CONTINUED)

- Challenges in ensuring Competency Based Orientations are correct for each clinic and that they are reviewed per policy
- Educating staff members who are not specialty trained in sterile processing can be time consuming as this is not the kind of information that can be given quickly or without in depth instruction

-TIME for follow up of each clinic can be difficult- Time is already a constraint in a busy Sterile Processing Department

THE FOLLOW UP

- With the amount of clinics and the various limitations in each clinic, we must ensure we follow up and make sure the staff understand the process and WHY they do what they do.
- Ensuring everyone understands that decontamination is the most important step of the sterilization process
- Decontamination rooms must be monitored daily for temperature, humidity, negative pressure and air exchanges. Recognizing this can be difficult for the individual clinic to monitor, it is imperative to ensure that the process is "centralized".

CONCLUSION

- As sterile processing professionals, we know that for proper sterilization to be performed, we must implement the highest standard of care through various controls and continuous education. With the complexity of instrumentation only increasing, ensuring that the correct Instructions For Use are followed are of the utmost importance.
  - Previous compliance rate: 50%
  - Current compliance rate with new/simpler standards: 90%
- With a simplified and streamlined process that is continuously monitored, we can ensure that our clinics maintain Joint Commission Compliance and that our patients receive the highest quality of care.