



## STERILIZATION

### Process

- Volunteers should arrive by 5:45 am or 12:00 pm and be ready to work by 6:15 am or 12:30 pm for shift 1 and 2 respectively.
- A brief training/orientation for the first 30 minutes of each shift will be provided by the Lead.
- Assure all sharps go in a sharps container and any bio-hazard material is deposited into bio hazard bags. **Do not put other trash in bio hazard bags.**
- Instruments should arrive in Sterilization in a covered container.
- Assure that personal instruments and ADCF instruments remain separate.
- Maintain a dirty and clean area for both personal and ADCF instruments.
- Wear appropriate personal protection equipment either provided by NM MOM or your own equipment such as safety glasses, face masks, gloves and disposable gowns, where appropriate.
- Assure that all instruments are clean/sterilized and ready for the next day before leaving each night.
- Assure work area is cleaned and wiped down with disinfecting wipes.
- Assure that Universal Precautions are followed in the sterilization of instruments. Below are some problem areas from past MOMs.
  - In sterilization, volunteers touching autoclave controls with contaminated gloves
    - Designate one or two people only to load autoclaves, and train to remove gloves prior to touching controls.
  - In sterilization, volunteers taking sterile instruments out of autoclaves with gloves on
    - Designate one or two people to only remove sterile items with clean hands.

**Review Dental Protocol with all volunteers to assure that appropriate guidelines are followed. Please also review the Infection Control/Sterilization Protocol provided by the ADCF. See set-up chart provided by the ADCF.**

### **Instrument Sterilization – Dental Protocol**

All instruments need to be placed in bins with a biohazard sticker, then taken to sterilization. Used instruments will be delivered to the contaminated side on sterilization, and clean

instruments will be picked up on the opposite, “clean” side. ADCF-approved bags will be used to sterilize instruments with sterilizer indicators enclosed in the bags.

**Disengage all needles and sharps and discard them in the red sharps containers near the dental operatory. No needles or sharps are allowed in the sterilization area.**

If you are bringing your own instruments, the sterilization bag must be labeled with your **name and treatment area (i.e. Hyg for hygiene; OS for oral surgery)**. Please help NM MOM make sure sterile instruments make it back to their rightful owners!

Place personal instruments on top of your labeled sterilization bag(s) on the provided tray for sterilization.

Instruments will remain together throughout the sterilization process. Sterilized bagged instruments will be available for pick up by dentist/hygienist/assistant at a designated location in Sterilization.

PLEASE BE FLEXIBLE and THANK YOU for participating today.