The Tooth About Dentistry Reprocessing: Webinar Questions

Nov. 8, 2018

1. Can pouches and packs (cassettes) be processed in the same load? Sterilizer instructions do not specify.

   Your sterilizer instructions do not specify explain how to load the autoclave chamber for a load containing both pouches and cassettes. The sterilizer's MIFUs (manufacturer's instructions for use) tell you how to load your machine. You load the machine in the manner specified to ensure the steam has the ability to reach all corners of the machine and penetrate all the packages that are in the chamber. If you do not have instructions on how to sterilize both pouches and cassettes in the same load, you should speak to your manufacturer. There may be a reason why this was not included in the sterilizer's MIFUs.

2. Are there common infections people should be tested for if they have had dental work completed by a dentist with poor reprocessing practice?

   There are many steps in the reprocessing process which work together to decrease the risk of transmission of infection (e.g., pre-cleaning, cleaning, sterilization which is monitored with quality assurance indictors [physical parameters, biological indicators (BI), chemical indicators (CI)], one way work flow, maintaining sterility of items until use). Having said that, if there is a break down in the process a potential for transmission of both bacterial and viral infections can exist. Bacterial infections will usually become evident shortly after a procedure such as the formation of an abscess. Bloodborne viral infections (e.g., hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV) may not be apparent; testing for these infections, in consultation with your family physician, may be warranted.

3. If you use a Type 5 in each package, do you need a PCD?

   Assumption – the operator of the autoclave is NOT quarantining their load until the result of their BI is known and a Type 5 CI is being used along with the cycle specific physical parameters to release the load. In this situation there are two options:
   - Place a Type 5 CI in each package; each package will also have an external Type 1 CI, **OR**
   - Place a Type 5 CI in a PCD (process challenge device); each package will also have an external Type 1 CI and an internal CI which is a minimum of a Type 4 CI.

4. Is there an easy way to determine which air removal method is utilized by the sterilizer? Does anyone have examples?

   The MIFUs for you autoclave will explain which air removal system is used by your sterilizer.

5. Other than a PCD for the BI – not sure what question is asking – sorry

6. Thought in dentistry there was movement away from manual cleaning, and moving to either a washer disinfector or ultrasonic

   Manual cleaning, ultrasonic washers and washer disinfectors are all used in dentistry. The method used for cleaning instrumentation will depend on the instruments' MIFUs and the best process for the setting or organization. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages.

7. Foil test for ultrasound washer-any manufacturer product?

   Unable to recommend a specific product. Best to ask your manufacturer if there is a specific product they would recommend for their ultrasound washer.

8. Sorry if I missed this point ...Are BIs to be used on every load?

   A BI is not required in every load **unless the load contains implantable items**. All loads, that have implantable items, require a BI in a PCD. A BI, inside a PCD, is required to be run once per day for every cycle type used on the autoclave.

9. Is there a requirement for a designated handwashing sink in the reprocessing area?

   Hand hygiene facilities (hand washing sinks, alcohol based hand rub [ABHR]) are to be readily accessible and located in all personnel support areas and at all entrances to, and exits from, the decontamination area.[1,2] The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z314-18 states "Dedicated hand washing sinks shall be conveniently located at all entrances to and exits from the decontamination area."[2]

10. If an office is quarantining instruments until the result of a BI is known, does each subsequent load need a PCD Types 5 only, no BI)?

    If an office is quarantining all packages until the result of BI (in a PCD) are known, an additional PCD containing a Type 5 CI in every load is not required. All the packages do require an external CI, usually a Type 1, and an internal CI – a minimum of Type 4. These CI need to be assessed when the packages are removed from the autoclave (i.e., checked to see if the required colour change has occurred). In addition, the physical parameters of each load must be reviewed, verified and documented.

11. If the office is not holding the instruments until the BI has passed are they able to pass the load with only a PCD? or do they have to put a class 5 in every load?

    If an office is not holding the instruments until the BI (in a PCD) has passed, there are two options:

    - Option 1: Place a Type 5 or 6 CI in a PCD. Run this PCD with the load of instruments. All instrument packages will have a Type 1 external CI and an internal CI which is, at a minimum, a Type 4. At the end of load – review, verify and document that all physical parameters have been met. Verify and document that the Type 5 CI in the PCD has made the required colour change. Look over all the packages that had been in the load to verify that the external CI have made the required colour change. If you can see the internal CI – check to see if these have made their required colour change. As each package is opened for use – again check to see if the CIs (external and internal) have made the required colour change.
    - Option 2: Place a Type 5 or 6 CI in every package. All instrument packages will also have a Type 1 external CI. At the end of load – review, verify and document that all physical parameters have been met. Look over all the packages that had been in the load to verify that the external CI have made the required colour change. If you can see the internal CI – check to see if these have made their required colour change. As each package is opened for use – again check to see if the CIs (external and internal) have made the required colour change.

12. Sorry in every pouch in the load – I think this belongs with question 12 and have answered it in that manner.

13. Is the PHO course considered enough training?

    The Public Health Ontario (PHO) Reprocessing in the Community is an excellent place to start your reprocessing education. The level of education required will depend on the volume and complexity of the instrumentation to be reprocessed in any given organization. To assess this, the organization should do an organizational risk assessment. To learn more about how to do an organizational risk assessment visit the PHO document *Recommendations for Education, Training and Certification for Reprocessing in Clinical Office Settings* available at: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Recommendations_Certification_Clinical_Office_Settings.pdf

14. How important is physical monitoring if the sterilizer has computer screen that reports errors? Will sterilizer even run the cycle if parameters for temperature and pressure are not met?

    Every sterilizer is different in its age and built in monitoring systems. Therefore, it is difficult to say specifically if a particular sterilizer will continue to run if the physical parameters are or are not met. To help ensure reprocessed items are safe for use, the quality assurance indicators are reviewed, verified and documented.

    There are three quality assurance indicators for autoclaves:
    - Physical parameters of each load
    - Chemical indicators on and in each package and or PCD
    - Biological indicator run every day for each cycle type to be used.

15. Is there any documentation that we should look for if an animal is considered a service animal?

    Every province and territory has their own specific laws with respect to service dogs. Consulting these would be a good place to start. National Service Dogs has a list of service animal laws. This list can be accessed here: http://www.nsd.on.ca/about/legislation/

16. What is the definition of a routine load? Since those are what can be released with a PCD versus a type 5.

    A routine load is a load which DOES NOT include implantable items. If an implantable item is in the load it is no longer considered routine and a BI, in a PCD, must be included in the quality assurance indicators for that load.

17. type 5 in every pack – I think this belongs up with question 17 – so answered as though it was

18. Do you recommend saving the printouts? or is it sufficient to sign off that correct parameters are met"?

    Every organization needs a policy and procedure for documentation of the physical parameters of each specific cycle of the autoclave. The policy and procedure needs to work for your organization. If it your printout is not on thermal paper, then saving the signed printout may work for your organization. If your printout is on thermal paper, the information on the paper will fade over time so you will need to have a log indicating that you have reviewed the parameters. You may consider using a log like one

PHO has developed - *Sterilization Monitoring Log for Table-top Steam Sterilizers* Available at: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/IPAC_Reprocessing_Sterilization_Monitoring_Table-top_Log_Form.pdf

19. Do electronic headpieces hoses have to be sterilized along with the motors?

    Always refer to the instrument's MIFU regarding how each item is to be reprocessed. If you have questions or concerns about the MIFU, bring this to the attention of the manufacturer and ask them for further information and or explanation.

References:

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical equipment/devices. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; May 2013.
2. CAN/CSA-Z314-19 Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing. February 2018

Resources:

1. PublicHealthOntario.ca Toronto, ON. Recommendations for Education, Training and Certification for Reprocessing in Clinical Office Settings. [cited 2018 November 19] Available at: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Recommendations_Certification_Clinical_Office_Settings.pdf

2. National Service Dogs [http://www.nsd.on.ca/] Cambridge, ON. Legislation [cited November 19, 2018] Available at: http://www.nsd.on.ca/about/legislation/

3. PublicHealthOntario.ca Toronto, ON. Sterilization Monitoring Log for Table-top Steam Sterilizers. [cited 2018 November 19] Available at: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/IPAC_Reprocessing_Sterilization_Monitoring_Table-top_Log_Form.pdf