

SPECT Program Outline

SPECT's training program is designed for health care workers who are responsible for infection prevention and sterile processing practices, including cleaning, packaging, sterilizing and storing of surgical instruments. It is also suitable for other workers who support staff in these areas.

Overview

1. Pre-training onsite assessment of healthcare facilities
2. Classroom course including lectures and hands-on practice
3. Training-of-Trainers workshop
4. Onsite mentorship
5. Monitoring and evaluation

Objectives

1. Communicate foundational steps of the sterile processing cycle.
2. Explain the scientific based evidence that guidelines are based upon.
3. Review proper care and handling of surgical instruments, from point-of-use through the entire reprocessing cycle.
4. Address challenges and barriers to implementing change of practice in healthcare facilities.
5. Provide health care workers with the opportunity to teach others and receive constructive feedback on their teaching skills.

Curriculum

- PowerPoint Presentations
- Workbook
- Reference Manual
- Quizzes and Assignments
- Pre- and Post-Test

Hands-on Practice (Competency Checklists)

- Hand Hygiene
- Donning & Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment
- Manually Cleaning Surgical Instruments
- Instrument Inspection, Assembly & Function Testing
- Aseptic Packaging Technique

Course Topics

Microbiology

- Basic facts about microorganisms
- Information about bacteria commonly involved in human disease transmission
- The role microorganisms play within the sterile processing field

Infection Prevention and Control

- Links between sterile processing and infection prevention within the healthcare facility
- Breaking the chain of infection
- Standard Precautions and its role in preventing the transmission of infectious organisms
- The principles of asepsis
- Environmental concerns

Cleaning

- Goals of soiled item preparation and transportation
- Procedures for transporting soiled items
- Purpose of a designated cleaning area for contaminated instruments and medical devices
- The role of common cleaning tools
- Steps in the cleaning process

Disinfection

- How disinfection differs from sterilization
- Types of disinfection levels
- Information about types of disinfectants commonly used in resource constrained healthcare facilities
- Good work practices for manual disinfection processes

Instrument Inspection, Assembly and Packaging

- Set up and function of the assembly area
- Instrument inspection points
- Function testing
- Preparation of contents for packaging
- Disposable and reusable packaging materials
- Package closure methods

Sterilization

- Factors that impact the effectiveness of sterilization
- High Temperature Sterilization
- Conditions necessary for an effective sterilization process
- Classifications of process indicators
- Quality control measurements

Sterile Storage and Transport

- Sterile storage considerations
- Procedures for moving sterile items into storage
- Event-related and time-related sterility concepts
- Sterile storage guidelines