Policy and Procedure
State Form 47039 (Elec. 2-95)

Agency
Richmond State Hospital

Hospital/Department Policy and/or Procedure
Infection Prevention/Control
Effective Date 4/10

Approved by
IP/C Physician Chair
Approved by Infection Preventionist
Approved by Laboratory Director

Subject
Sterilization, Sterility Testing, and Laboratory Cultures
Number 1300.02

POLICY AND/OR PROCEDURE

I. PURPOSE
To assure the sterility of dental instruments and the absence of pathogens in selected critical settings.

II. SCOPE
Laboratory, Dental Clinic, Medical Equipment

III. POLICY
Testing and monitoring will occur in the following areas:
- Dental Clinic – Dry heat sterilizer and Autoclave
  Weekly biological spore testing
  Cold sterilization Daily (monthly report to Infection Preventionist)
- Laboratory – Filtered water
  Monthly culture
- Medical Equipment – whirlpool tubs
  Quarterly culture

IV. PROCEDURE
Dental Clinic:
1. All sterilizers will be tested with live spores at least weekly. Chemical indicators should be used as required for each package.
2. Copies of weekly spore tests are sent to the Infection Preventionist.

Laboratory:
1. Filtered water specimen sent to Reid Hospital monthly for routine culture.
2. Copy of report is sent to Infection Preventionist

Medical Equipment:
1. Specimen from inlet jets sent to Reid Hospital quarterly for routine culture.
2. Copy of report is sent to Infection Preventionist.

A positive test or culture result will be followed by corrective action and re-testing. Indiscriminate culturing of the environment will not be done. The need for culturing may be indicated when a specific problem is identified through Quality Management or evidence of transference of disease in order to identify the source or mode of transmission.

Original Effective Date 10/86

Source

Distribution
Date/s of Revision 7/89, 5/03, 2/09, 4/10

Related Policies and Procedures
Dental Services - Biological Monitoring 1220.05, 1220.06 1220.07 & 1220.08