

PROCEDURE FOR: Transport of Sterilized Items, Internal Use: JDH and FSC  
Ors

- POLICY:
1. Sterile packaged items will be transported in a manner that protects items from puncture and contamination by moisture, excessive humidity, condensation caused by exposure to temperature extremes, insects, vermin, dust and dirt, excessive air pressures, and microorganisms.
  2. Items that are processed in either the JDH or FSC sterile processing areas may be used in either location's operating rooms (ORs) without resterilization at the alternate site as long as transportation between sites protects the items as defined above.
  3. Items transported between the JDH and FSC ORs will be enclosed in designated rigid, covered / enclosed transport containers that contain the item(s) without compromising their sterile packaging and that allow the items to be placed in a secure, flat position. All external shipping cartons (corrugated or otherwise) are considered contaminated and will not be used for transport of packaged sterile items.
  4. Transport containers will be cleaned between uses with an antimicrobial cleaning solution approved by JDH Infection Control.
  5. Couriers will be educated about proper handling of items prior to transporting items between locations.
  6. If a vehicle is used to transport items between sites, it must provide for the complete separation of clean and sterile items from contaminated items. The vehicle must be completely enclosed and must not leak. Sterile packages should be secured within the vehicle to prevent damage or contamination.
  7. If a courier hand transports items between sites, all packaged sterile items will be maintained in a position parallel with the walking surface and the courier will exercise good body mechanics. If good body mechanics cannot be maintained during transport, the packaged sterile items must be transported in a vehicle, as described above.
  8. All packaged sterile items will be inspected at the receiving location for sterility prior to their transport into the OR.

EQUIPMENT: Sterilization packaging items: peel packaging, non-woven wrap, hard cases.

Clinical Procedure  
FSC OR/Sterile Processing / JDH OR/CSSIR  
John Dempsey Hospital - Dept. of Nursing  
University of Connecticut Health Center  
Transportation containers

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APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/07

REVISION DATE: 11/08