

Guardians of Sterilization Assurance



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The four guardians of sterilization assurance come together for one purpose: **to protect your patients.**

By using all four levels of sterilization monitoring, you can be confident that your protective shield against failures is in place at every stage of your sterilization process.

Neglecting any of these elements can leave your defences diminished.

The four elements of the shield are:

Equipment control

Equipment monitoring means regularly checking whether your sterilizer is working properly. This can be done with a Bowie-Dick test, which detects residual air in the sterilizer chamber, or the Electronic Test System (ETS), which measures and records temperature, pressure and time and provides a decisive result.

Load control

Load monitoring refers to the process by which the individual load is monitored and released. The most common method, Biological Indicators help detect potential sterilization failures within minutes of being retrieved from the chamber. A negative result provides assurance that sterilizing conditions were achieved. 3M™ Attest™ Super Rapid Indicators can provide fast and reliable results for consistent monitoring.

Internal pack control

Internal pack monitoring is a crucial step in any steam or low temperature sterilization process. Chemical indicators (CIs) provide information about the exposure conditions achieved inside a pack, tray, container or peel pouch. 3M™ Attest™ Chemical Integrators offer an immediate, accurate and easy to read result from inside each pack and provide assurance to the OR team that the pack's content has been correctly exposed to sterilization conditions.

External pack control

For effective external pack control, you need an exposure monitor that securely seals packs and provides a visual assurance that the package has been exposed to the sterilization process. 3M™ Comply™ Indicator tapes securely seal packs and enable CSSD and OR personnel to know at a glance that the packs have been exposed to the sterilization process.

Your system is only as strong as its weakest link. These four guardian elements combine to give you the best possible protection – an ineffective or missing solution for any one of them can break the shield and leave you vulnerable.

Trust your guardians to protect every day, every load, every pack, every patient.