



## Sterilisation

Sterilisation is a validated process used to render a product free from all forms of viable microorganisms. Practices shall ensure that all equipment used in clinical procedures is sterile.

### RACGP Standards

- ☞ **5.3.4A** *Our GP(s) and staff can describe how our practice ensures that, where necessary sterile equipment is used in clinical procedures*
- ☞ **5.3.4B** *Our GP(s) or staff members with designated responsibility can describe in detail how the use of sterile equipment is assured, including where relevant:*
- *provision of an adequate range of disposable equipment*
  - *procedures for having instruments sterilised offsite*
  - *procedures for on-site sterilisation of equipment*
  - *monitoring the integrity and validation of the whole sterilisation process and steriliser maintenance*
  - *procedures for safe storage and stock rotation; and education of training and staff involved*

### Assessment methods

- Interviews with practitioners and support staff

The Practice shall be able to describe how instruments are sterilised and stored for use when required.

- Document review of validation and calibration of the steriliser
- Document review of practice procedures

If on-site sterilisation takes place the Practice will be asked to demonstrate the correct use of the steriliser and provide a written sterilisation procedure. Staff will also be asked for documentary evidence that the steriliser has been calibrated and validated every 12 months.

If off-site sterilisation takes place, the Practice shall have a procedure for the safe transport of instruments to and from the Practice. Evidence of the provider's accreditation or validation shall be available for review by surveyors.

### Meeting the standards

The Practice shall have procedures for the safe storage and rotation of stock to maintain sterility and the GP(s) and staff shall be able to describe this process. Staff shall be able to describe the procedure followed to sterilise instruments at the Practice or describe suitable arrangements with an off-site provider. Staff will be able demonstrate that appropriate ongoing training has been undertaken in regards to these procedures.

Practices that use off-site sterilisation facilities shall have documented procedures for the safe transport of instruments to and from the Practice and shall ensure that the off-site facility correctly performs and validates the sterilisation process.

### Best practice:

The Practice shall have a system which enables accurate tracking of sterilised items used on any individual case as part of risk minimisation processes.