

SAMPLE

Spore Testing

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for monitoring autoclaves for the lethality of steam sterilization process, to insure product sterility.

POLICY: Spore testing to be completed once a month or per manufacturer's guidelines. Results to be kept with autoclave log.

PROCEDURE:

1. Obtain ampules from contracted laboratory.
2. Follow manufacturer's direction for intended use.
3. Return ampules to laboratory for examination and ultimate results.
4. **If results are positive**, the autoclave is removed from service immediately until inspection is completed and a negative retest occurs. All instruments autoclaved since the last negative spore test must also be removed to avoid use of a possibly un-sterilized instrument. Follow the "5 R" procedure which is as follows:

Report

Repair

Retrieve

Retest

Re-sterilize