

# Job Description – Sterilizer

## Description

This is a non-medical position. The sterilizer makes sure that the instruments are cleaned an sterilized as the surgeries progress during the day. The Sterilizer also ensures that the instruments are counted and accounted for throughout the day so that no important medical equipment is lost.

## Responsibilities

- Cleans and sterilizes instruments following infectious precautions and autoclave procedures
- Assists the Head Nurse as requested
- Prepares autoclave for packing and safe shipment back to the warehouse
- Keep surgeons' own instruments accounted for and secure
- Should you have any questions regarding safety and protocols, consult with the head nurse

#### Qualifications

 Maintain a sense of humour. It is a great asset. The hospital sterilizers that you will be working with will be your best friends and will help and teach you. Often, they will not speak English, but smiles and learning a few basic words of their language will go a long way.

#### **Pre-embarkment**

• Familiarize yourself prior to leaving on the mission with blood and body fluid management and protection protocols

# **The Clinic Begins**

- Check the OR slate each morning to make sure you have the needed trays available on time for each surgery
- At the end of the day the next days OR slate should be available and you can then assure that the 1<sup>st</sup> cases will have instruments ready
- Count, clean and make sure instrument trays are complete prior to sterilizing them. There should be pictures of each tray for your reference

- Some surgeons bring their own specialized instruments on the mission and these will need to be sterilized prior to each of their cases. Sometimes the surgeon's instruments need to be flashed immediately following each surgery, thereby making them ready for the next case
- Familiarize yourself with the extra instrument whereabouts as OR nurses will be asking for them throughout the day
- If you ever have doubts about safety or protocol, consult your head nurse