

STERILIZATION AND HIGH-LEVEL DISINFECTION MOCK TRACER QUESTIONS

#	TRACER QUESTION
1	Who owns the sterilization policy, and how often does the team review it against current manufacturer instructions?
2	How does the department confirm every sterilizer and instrument in use has current, accessible manufacturer instructions on file?
3	Walk through a sterilization cycle from load to release. What parameters get checked, and against what source?
4	How is each sterilizer load monitored? Where does that documentation live?
5	What does the maintenance record for a sterilizer look like? How current is it?
6	How are contaminated instruments transported to decontamination, and how is that kept separate from clean or sterile item movement?
7	If sterilization happens off-site, who is responsible for confirming items are properly cleaned before they leave the building?
8	Does the facility reprocess any single-use devices? If so, what documentation confirms the reprocessing entity holds current FDA clearance?
9	What triggers a risk assessment or gap analysis of the sterilization program, and how often does one happen?
10	Walk through what happens when a sterile package shows signs of compromise. Who gets notified, and what determines whether a patient needs to be told?
11	How are sterilized items stored, and how is that storage area monitored for cleanliness and organization?

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1	What is the department's policy on high-level disinfection, and how often does it get reviewed?
2	Walk through the precleaning process for an endoscope immediately after a procedure. What changes when immediate precleaning is not possible?
3	How is leak testing performed, and on what schedule, for endoscopes requiring it?
4	Describe the manual cleaning process. How does staff verify brush size and cleaning time against manufacturer instructions?
5	What personal protective equipment is required for reprocessing staff, and how is it verified as available and appropriate?
6	How does the department confirm all channels of an endoscope are fully perfused during high-level disinfection?
7	If an automated reprocessor cycle gets interrupted, what is the response?
8	Walk through the rinse and dry process. How is complete drying confirmed before storage?
9	How are endoscopes stored, and what does the facility's risk assessment say about maximum safe storage duration?
Source: The Joint Commission Need help with mock surveys? We can help! Email: partners@surgical-solutions.com surgicalsolutions.com How often is reprocessing competency assessed for staff	