



Sterile Processing Department (CSSD) Management Course: Sterilizer Validation and Set Tracking

16 – 20 August 2027

London - Central London four-star



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Introduction:

Sterile processing department CSSD management, covering sterilizer validation and set tracking, is a 5-day course for CSSD managers, shift supervisors and senior sterile processing technicians in hospitals, ending with a CSSD Operations Improvement Plan for a case hospital. Theatres lose sessions and patients face avoidable risk when soiled trays queue in the wrong zone, washer and steriliser evidence is incomplete and instrument sets cannot be traced to the patient. Nominees already run decontamination, packing or steriliser loads and learn through an inspection walkthrough of a case department. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this sterile processing department management course.

Course Objectives:

- Map one-way flow, zoning, pressure cascades and staffing across the decontamination, packing, steriliser and sterile store areas of a hospital CSSD
- Verify manual cleaning, ultrasonic cleaning and washer-disinfector performance against ISO 15883 test requirements and residual soil checks
- Assemble, wrap and label instrument trays in rigid containers or sterile barrier systems that meet ISO 11607 packaging requirements
- Select and monitor steam and low-temperature steriliser cycles using Bowie-Dick tests, chemical indicators and biological indicators
- Release or recall steriliser loads, trace instrument sets to patients and control loaned and consignment sets
- Measure CSSD turnaround, throughput and nonconformance KPIs and assemble a CSSD Operations Improvement Plan for a case hospital

Target Audience:

- Managers responsible for running a hospital sterile services department, its staffing plan and its consumables budget
 - Shift supervisors accountable for decontamination, packing and steriliser output and for signing load release records
 - Senior technicians who carry out washer-disinfector and steriliser periodic testing with engineers and service providers
 - Theatre and endoscopy unit managers who agree tray turnaround, loaned sets and instrument standards with sterile services
 - Quality leads responsible for traceability records, recall handling and nonconformance reporting in sterile services
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Course Outline:

Day 1: CSSD Operating Model, Zoning and Current-State Baseline

- Spaulding Classification Applied to Theatre and Ward Reusable Devices
- Instrument Life Cycle From Point-of-Use Pre-Cleaning to Sterile Store
- One-Way Dirty-to-Clean Flow, Zoning and Air Pressure Cascades
- Department Staffing Model, Shift Pattern and Technician Competency Matrix
- CSSD Current-State Baseline Using Tray Counts and Delay Logs

Day 2: Cleaning, Washer-Disinfector Validation and Packaging Standards

- Manufacturer Instructions for Use Review Before Accepting New Instruments
- Manual and Ultrasonic Cleaning With Lumen Brushes and Detergent Dosing
- ISO 15883 Washer-Disinfector Thermal Disinfection and Periodic Test Schedule
- Protein Residue and Soil Test Cleaning Verification Methods
- ISO 11607 Sterile Barrier Systems, Rigid Containers and Wrap Selection

Day 3: Steam and Low-Temperature Steriliser Cycle Control

- ISO 17665 Moist Heat Cycle Phases and Air Removal Methods
- Daily Bowie-Dick Test Interpretation and Air Leak Test Records
- ISO 11140 Chemical Indicator Classes for Internal and External Monitoring
- ISO 11138 Biological Indicators With *Geobacillus Stearothermophilus* Spore Incubation
- Hydrogen Peroxide and Ethylene Oxide Cycles for Heat-Sensitive Devices

Day 4: Load Release, Set Traceability, Loaned Sets and Performance Control

- Parametric Load Release Criteria, Quarantine and Failed Cycle Recall
- Instrument Set Barcode Tracking Linked to Patient Procedure Records
- Loaned and Consignment Set Receipt, Inventory and Return Checks
- Event-Related Shelf Life, Sterile Store Conditions and Wet Pack Rules
- CSSD Productivity KPIs for Turnaround, Throughput and Set Errors

Day 5: Inspection Walkthrough of a Case Hospital CSSD

- Case Department Layout Walkthrough Against Zoning and Flow Criteria
 - Case Washer-Disinfector and Steriliser Records Challenge Review
 - Case Set Tracking Gap Review and Recall Drill Exercise
 - Case KPI Dashboard Build From Tray Turnaround Data
 - CSSD Operations Improvement Plan Completion and Peer Challenge
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Skills You Will Gain:

- Reprocessing Flow Design
- Washer-Disinfector Performance Testing
- Sterile Barrier Selection
- Steriliser Cycle Monitoring
- Biological Indicator Interpretation
- Load Release Decision-Making
- Instrument Set Traceability
- Sterile Services KPI Reporting

Why Attend This Course:

- Deliver a CSSD Operations Improvement Plan to the sterile services manager, theatre director and infection control committee for approval
- Decide whether a failed indicator, wet pack or missing cycle record requires load quarantine and recall of issued sets
- Avoid cancelled theatre sessions, incomplete trays and untraceable loaned sets that delay surgery and expose patients to harm
- Coach technicians and shift leads with the load release checklist, set tracking procedure and washer test schedule

Conclusion:

Back at the hospital, the participant presents the CSSD Operations Improvement Plan to the sterile services manager, the theatre director and the infection control committee. Management uses it to approve zoning changes, the washer and steriliser test schedule, the load release and recall procedure, loaned set rules and the investment case for barcode tracking. After the first quarter under the plan, the department should compare tray turnaround, set errors, failed cycles and recall drill results with the targets and revise the controls that have not held.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What should participants know before a sterile processing department CSSD management course?

Participants should already work in or supervise a hospital CSSD and be familiar with washer-disinfector and steriliser records. Bringing an anonymised cycle printout, tray list or turnaround log helps them apply the walkthrough to their own department.

How does sterile processing department CSSD management differ from an infection prevention and control course?

This course runs the sterile services department itself: zoning, cleaning verification, packaging, steriliser monitoring, load release, set tracking and productivity. Infection prevention courses cover hospital-wide surveillance, isolation, outbreaks and audits, and treat reprocessing as one element among many.

Why does sterile processing department CSSD management rely on the daily Bowie-Dick test?

Steam cannot sterilise surfaces that trapped air shields. The Bowie-Dick test pack, run in an empty chamber each morning, shows whether the vacuum steriliser removes air and lets steam penetrate evenly, so a failure stops the steriliser before any patient load is processed.

What do participants take back from the sterile processing department CSSD management course?

Participants take back a CSSD Operations Improvement Plan for a case hospital, with a zoning checklist, washer and steriliser test schedule, load release and recall procedure, loaned set controls and a turnaround KPI dashboard they can adapt to their own department.
