



National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards  
**Sterile Processing Technician**



District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund  
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# Sterile Processing Technician

## Job Description:

Ensures the cleanliness, functionality, and sterility of medical instruments and equipment, playing a vital role in infection control and patient safety. They decontaminate, inspect, sterilize, and assemble surgical tools while maintaining detailed records. Working behind the scenes in hospitals and surgical centers, they support healthcare teams by providing sterile supplies essential for safe and efficient medical procedures. This role demands precision, organization, and adherence to strict protocols.

## Appendix A-1: Work Process Schedule – Time Based

O\*NET Code: 31-9093.00 RAPIDS Occupation Code: 1133

Job Skill: Clean medical equipment.	Approximate Hours
1.0 Operate and maintain steam autoclaves, keeping records of loads completed, items in loads, and maintenance procedures performed.	120
1.1 Clean instruments to prepare them for sterilization.	120
1.2 Disinfect and sterilize equipment, such as respirators, hospital beds, or oxygen or dialysis equipment, using sterilizers, aerators, or washers.	120
1.3 Purge wastes from equipment by connecting equipment to water sources and flushing water through systems.	120
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>480</b>

Job Skill: Operate medical equipment.	Approximate Hours
2.0 Operate and maintain steam autoclaves, keeping records of loads completed, items in loads, and maintenance procedures performed.	115
2.1 Start equipment and observe gauges and equipment operation to detect malfunctions and to ensure equipment is operating to prescribed standards.	115
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>230</b>

Job Skill: Maintain medical equipment or instruments.	Approximate Hours
3.0 Operate and maintain steam autoclaves, keeping records of loads completed, items in loads, and maintenance procedures performed.	120
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>120</b>

<b>Job Skill: Prepare medical instruments or equipment for use.</b>	<b>Approximate Hours</b>
4.0 Organize and assemble routine or specialty surgical instrument trays or other sterilized supplies, filling special requests as needed.	115
4.1 Install and set up medical equipment, using hand tools.	115
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>230</b>

<b>Job Skill: Record vital statistics or other health information.</b>	<b>Approximate Hours</b>
5.0 Record sterilizer test results	120
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>120</b>

<b>Job Skill: Monitor medical equipment to ensure proper functioning.</b>	<b>Approximate Hours</b>
6.0 Examine equipment to detect leaks, worn or loose parts, or other indications of disrepair.	130
6.1 Report defective equipment to appropriate supervisors or staff.	130
6.2 Start equipment and observe gauges and equipment operation to detect malfunctions and to ensure equipment is operating to prescribed standards.	130
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>390</b>

<b>Job Skill: Inventory medical supplies or equipment.</b>	<b>Approximate Hours</b>
7.0 Maintain records of inventory or equipment usage and order medical instruments or supplies when inventory is low.	115
7.1 Check sterile supplies to ensure that they are not outdated.	115
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>230</b>

<b>Job Skill: Stock medical or patient care supplies.</b>	<b>Approximate Hours</b>
8.0 Stock crash carts or other medical supplies.	120
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>120</b>

<b>Job Skill: Attend educational events to update medical knowledge.</b>	<b>Approximate Hours</b>
9.0 Attend hospital in-service programs related to areas of work specialization.	120
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>120</b>

<b>Grand Total Hours</b>	<b>2,000</b>
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## Appendix A-2: Related Technical Instruction

O\*NET Code: 31-9093.00 RAPIDS Occupation Code: 1133

CIP Code	Class Name	Contact Hours
51.1012	<p><b>Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST)</b> Is the certification needed by law to sterilize surgical instruments. This is the primary certification. This certification is mandatory by law in multiple states including Pennsylvania and New Jersey</p>	35
51.1012	<p><b>Certified Instrument Specialist (CIS)</b> Is a certification in being above average in instrument identification and reprocessing.</p>	35
51.1012	<p><b>Certified Endoscope Re-Processor (CER)</b> Is a certification required for reprocessing flexible endoscopes. This field is highly regulated by the government because this processing is not sterilization, it is high level disinfection. There is a huge demand in this field. And endoscopy reprocessing can be a separate career path outside of sterile processing</p>	35
51.1012	<p><b>Certified Healthcare Leader (CHL)</b> This certification is now a requirement in most lead tech, supervisor or manager roles. It focuses on work place in-teractions and leading people at work.</p>	35
51.1012	<p><b>Basic Life Support (BLS)</b> This certification is required in most healthcare facilities and has to be renewed bi-yearly. This course is related to response to a health crisis of a co-worker and or visitor.</p>	20
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160</b>



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