SPORE TESTING
Ensuring Proper Sterilization of Instruments.

1. START HERE

2. PACKAGE & LOAD
Write on the pouches:
- Operators initials
- Date of sterilization load run
- Identification information
- Place pouches on its side (preferably on a rack) with space in between.

3. STERILIZE
Instruments must be exposed to steam at the correct:
- TIME
- TEMP
- PRESSURE

*Sterilizer parameters

CLEAN*
Soak, remove debris, rinse instruments & inspect (never sterilize dirty instrument)

4. CHEMICAL QUALITY INDICATOR
(i.e. heat sensitive tape)

5.1 Non-Passing Spore Tests:
- Remove autoclave from service
- Report to supervisor
- Recall all instruments
- Re-spore test
- Document results

5.2 If spore test fails:
- Resterilize previously recalled instruments.

5.3 Inspect & repair autoclave
- Repeat spore test a total of 3 TIMES document results
  (Refer to policy for continued failed spore tests)

6. STORAGE
- Protect packages & keep in designated pouch.
- Place newer pouches in back
- Resterilize pouches only when:
  - opened
  - wet/moist
  - discolored/damaged
- Routinely check status of packages (e.g. assign 1 person to keep track)
- Calendar routine checks

5.5 Spore Test
Complete spore testing.
Hold instruments until spore test results are received.

5.6 Chemical indicators change color when processed correctly.

5.7 Document results

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE
- Follow daily, weekly & monthly cleaning per manufacturing guidelines
- Complete annual maintenance

*Always follow manufacturer’s written instructions Refer to policy