Monitor what matters

Starting with the bugs ------>

3M

It all matters

Every step, every detail, every day

Your job is to sterilize medical instruments. Our job is to help you monitor the efficacy of your sterilization process, through every pack and every load.

That's why we recommend a comprehensive approach.

Biological indicators (BI) provide the only direct measure of lethality. Simply stated: the bugs in your BI are dead or they're not. Chemical indicators (CI) monitor time, temperature and the presence of steam. In your sterilizer, these indicators work together, helping you monitor what matters.

Assurance simplified

Our goal is to not only provide the industry's most comprehensive line of sterilization assurance products, but also a practical approach that makes it easy to monitor all aspects of the process. For example, we've developed a handy product wheel that explains our recommendations for best practices — how and when to use every monitor, from tape to Class 6 and biological indicators — so you can choose the right monitors for your protocols with confidence.

As your partner, we'll work with you to reduce the risk of undetected system failures by helping you establish consistent protocols, stay compliant with the standards and train your staff.

A decision you can stand by

Today you have to weigh every sterilization monitoring choice against the challenges of infection control and health care liability, shrinking budgets and stringent audits.

Our products assist you in meeting current AAMI, AORN and CDC standards and recommended practices for sterile processing — and that's important for internal and external audits.

You can feel confident using 3M Sterilization products because we have the highest standards for what we bring to market. With more than 50 years in the industry, our reputation is built on providing the most advanced, most reliable products.

Pack Monitoring

Load Monitoring

Equipment Monitoring

One monitor does not fit all

From a poorly packed load to an air pocket or poor steam quality, many things can go wrong inside your sterilizer. The only way to know for sure that it's working is to monitor every stage of the process.

Each 3M Sterilization Assurance product is designed to monitor the efficacy of a specific part of the sterilization process such as: air removal, lethality and exposure to time, temperature and saturated steam.

Compliance. Control. Confidence.

3M offers a comprehensive sterilization assurance product line backed by rigorous research and testing, compliance with standards and the provision of highly relevant educational resources. We help you not only build confidence into your sterilization processes, but also enhance the quality of your organization's patient care.

Products

Exposure monitoring

3M™ Comply™ Steam, EO and Gas Plasma Indicator tapes

Equipment monitoring

3M™ Comply™ Bowie-Dick Test Pack

Pack monitoring

3M™ Comply™ SteriGage™ Steam Chemical Integrators

3M™ Comply™ Steam Emulating Indicators

3M™ Comply™ Steam, EO and Gas Plasma Chemical Indicator Strips

3M™ Comply™ Thermalog™ Steam Chemical Integrators

Load monitoring

3M™ Attest™ Rapid Readout Biological Indicators and Test Pack

Compliance and education resources

We offer a broad range of resources for your sterilization department, including:

- Education programs, including live seminars and Web-based training
- Sample sterile processing policies and procedures
- The latest news on industry standards
- White papers and technical research

Plus, online resources:

- 3M™ Attest™ Sterile U Online: The e-resource for sterilization professionals (www.3M.com/AttestSterileUOnline)
- 3M.com/deadbugsdontlie: Everything you ever wanted to know about biological indicators

A little bug, a lot of risk

The health of your patients

According to the CDC, surgical-site infections (SSIs) complicate an estimated 500,000 operations each year,* and health care-associated infections (HAIs) are the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., killing almost twice as many people as breast cancer and HIV combined.‡‡

The reputation of your organization

When the media reports patient harm due to medical staff error, it can cost a health care organization its reputation. Litigation resulting from HAIs can also be costly. In one year, five of the top 10 case verdicts in jury cases involved hospitals,** and HAIs represented the ninth highest cause of litigation against health care organizations.†

The expense of an SSI

Medicare and Medicaid no longer reimburse costs related to HAIs that could have been prevented by following evidence-based guidelines.†† According to recent studies, HAIs add an average of $9,000 in costs per patient—and reduced overall net inpatient margins by $5,000 a patient.‡

The high costs of recall

According to current AAMI standards, if a BI shows the sterilization process failed, you have to recall every load back to the last load with a negative biological indicator. Considering how many sterilizer loads your organization runs each day, that could cost you time and paperwork—and undermine interdepartmental relationships.

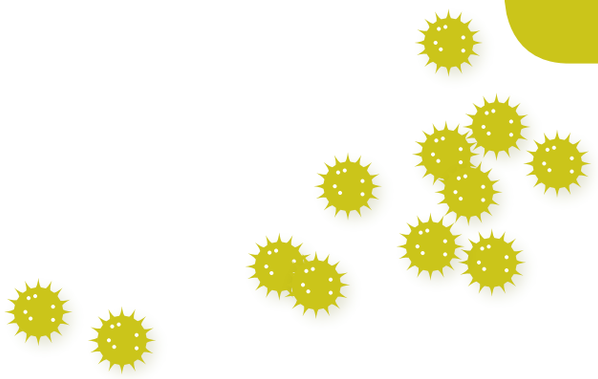
What we mean by bugs

The pathogenic microorganisms below are just a few of the bugs that can be found on surgical instruments that have not been properly sterilized. They can cause serious illnesses, such as gastrointestinal infections, meningitis, toxic shock syndrome and yeast and fungal overgrowth.

Escherichia coli

Staphylococcus aureus

Candida spp.



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* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics, Detailed Diagnoses and Procedures, National Hospital Discharge Survey, 1994. Series 13, Vol 127

** Lawyers Weekly USA, Year in Review Edition, 1996

† State of Florida, Hospital Licensing and Regulations, Internal Risk Management Program, Chapter 59a–10

†† Peterson, Dan; Qutaishat, Salah, A Call to Action: Eliminating Healthcare-Associated Infections, Infection Control Today, November 2007

‡ Dispelling the Myths: The True Cost of Healthcare-Associated Infections, APIC Briefing, February 2007

‡‡ Binder, Leah (The Leapfrog Group), Infections Caused by Health Care. A transcript of congressional testimony to the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 16, 2008

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