Objective: To determine if there is a breach in barrier protection for rigid sterilization containers. To maintain sterility, after terminal sterilization has been attained, rigid sterilization containers should provide a complete seal between the lid and the container case. If not, the seal is compromised and hence a breach in barrier protection has occurred.

Step 1: Place the rigid sterilization container on a flat surface and remove the lid.

Step 2: Place the dollar bill on the edge of the container. Place it so that about three-fourths of the bill is inside the container, with the remainder outside.

Step 3: Replace the lid and close the clamps.

Step 4: Try to pull the bill out. Any movement is a sign of a defect in the gasket, the metal against the gasket or the latching mechanism.

If you are concerned that you may be putting your patients at risk, Halyard Health is standing by to help you with valuable information, tools, and resources to evaluate your rigid sterilization containers to determine their effectiveness in sterilizing your surgical instruments. That’s the Halyard Advantage!

Come up with an action plan to address the container you tested and make an assessment of how many others like it you have in your inventory or active use. Contact your Halyard Health Sterilization Partner for help and support at www.halyardhealth.com/patientsafety or call 1-844-HALYARD (1-844-425-9273) in the United States and Canada.

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