

Continuing Education Programs

Last updated 5/11/2021

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK* is a dynamic collection of educational resources designed to provide insight and information on relevant healthcare issues.

This value-added service provides knowledge to improve:

- Patient outcomes
- Staff competency
- Staff protection
- Hospital/facility risk reduction

Most programs are accredited to provide Continuing Education credit for Nurses, Surgical Technologists, or Central Service/Sterile Processing Department professionals.

Programs are available in several formats, including:

- THUMB DRIVE VIDEOS and THUMB DRIVE VIDEO/study guide combination programs, facilitated by your O&M Halyard representative
 - Online courses and Independent Study Guides, accessed at your convenience. Access online offerings by visiting <https://www.halyardhealth.com/continuing-education.aspx>
 - Presented live by Halyard Health faculty, for your facility meetings and conference
- *Enclosed is a complete listing of Knowledge Network* courses. Contact your O&M Halyard representative for more information about any of these courses.

Continuing Education Programs

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
A Triangle of Concern: Air Currents, Barrier Fabrics, and Bacterial Penetration	<p>Preventing disease transmission is a major concern for all members of the healthcare team. During an operative or invasive procedure, both the patient and healthcare worker are at risk for transmission of infectious agents, not only through blood and body fluids, but also through bacterial penetration of barrier fabrics facilitated by forced air currents. This continuing education activity will discuss the triangle of concern presented by bacterial penetration of barrier fabrics (e.g., surgical gowns, face masks, and sterilization wraps) through forced air currents and its implications for the perioperative nurse. The potential sources and activities that contribute to this triangle of concern will be reviewed. Ways to differentiate the ability of barrier fabrics to prevent bacterial penetration, including a review of the various types of fabrics and the bacterial filtration efficiency (BFE) test method, will be discussed. Finally, best practices to reduce or prevent this bacterial penetration through barrier fabrics will be outlined.</p>	<p>Nurses: 2.0 CH CA Board</p>	<p>Online</p>
Can Particle Contamination of Wounds Cause Problems for Patients	<p>Intraoperative contamination caused by particles that settle on or near the sterile field (eg, surgeon's hands, surgical instruments) can become a contributing factor to surgical site infection (SSI) and postoperative complications. These particles are dangerous because they can carry microorganisms, but even when the particles are sterile and do not carry microorganisms, they can be a direct cause for postoperative complications. This education program will present an overview of the common sources of particle contamination and the role particles play in forming blood clots, contributing to poor healing, and the development of other postoperative complications. Immune distraction that is caused by particles and the correlation with increased risk of infection will be described. Strategies that nurses, sterile processing professionals, and members of the perioperative or interventional radiology teams can use to reduce the risk of postoperative complications related to particle contamination will also be discussed.</p>	<p>Nurses: 2.0 CH CA Board</p>	<p>Faculty</p>

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
The Clinical Issue: Packaging Dental Instruments for Sterilization	It is critically important to have an effective Infection Control program in the Dental Office. The safety of you and your patients depends upon properly cleaned and sterilized instruments that do not transmit infectious organisms/diseases between patients or between your patient and you. Different dental disciplines may have slightly different infection control practices. For example, the oral surgeon may put additional emphasis on aseptic technique, the importance of low linting materials, and the need for stringent attention to sterilization procedures as they are performing more invasive procedures. This program addresses practices and recommended protocols for packaging and sterilization of dental instruments and outlines different packaging options for sterilization.	Dental: 1.0 CE ADA	Online
The Clinical Issue: Medical Glove Selection for Dental Professionals	Dentistry is a hands-on profession. It is estimated that dental professionals wear medical gloves 40 or more hours per week to protect their hands from exposure to bacteria, viruses and other microorganisms via patients' blood and saliva. Specific dental-related chemicals, compounds, biocides and cleaning agents can diminish or weaken puncture resistance and glove strength, potentially compromising the safety of the wearer. Additionally, inappropriate glove selection may put the patient at risk for a variety of complications. The following review highlights critical considerations when selecting medical gloves for dental professionals.	Dental: 1.0 CE ADA	Online
Does the Glove Fit: Critical Considerations for the Selection of Medical Gloves	Medical gloves are a critical component of barrier protection for healthcare personnel exposed to infectious substances and hazardous materials. Questions that should be asked when selecting medical gloves include: do the gloves fit the task at hand, what physical characteristics do they have, what potential complications might be experienced, and will their disposal have an impact on the environment? These are all issues that must be considered for appropriate glove selection. This educational program will address these issues by identifying considerations for medical glove selection and describing factors that affect their physical characteristics. Associated complications and environmental impact will also be reviewed.	CS/SPD: 1.0CH IAHCSSM:	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
Environmental Dilemma: Safely Managing and Reducing the Impact of Medical Waste *CBSPD Expires 11/6/2021	<p>Health care professionals play a critical role in safely and effectively managing medical waste. By advancing awareness related to environmental issues when selecting products and in their daily practice, health care professionals protect themselves, the public, and the environment from exposure to both microbial and non-microbial health care waste. By reducing this exposure, the risk of infection transmission is reduced and environmental sustainability is supported. This education program will present an overview of medical waste categories, including microbial contamination. An overview of the best practice trends for optimal medical waste management will be discussed as well as strategies for selecting products that support safety and environmental sustainability. The environmental impact health care professionals should address when managing medical waste will also be discussed.</p>	<p>CS/SPD 1.0 CH CBSPD</p> <p>CS/SPD: 1.0CH IAHCSSM:</p>	Faculty
ESP: Are My Rigid Containers Maintaining Sterility? *CBSPD Expires 2/26/2022	<p>Rigid containers are convenient. But, are they as safe as the day you purchased them? Is your pre-use inspection checklist up to date? Is every important box checked each time? Have containers gone in for repairs as scheduled? Have you run tests to increase the confidence that post sterilized containers are maintaining content sterility? In this course we will work through the inspection list, discuss failure points often not thought to threaten sterility, and demonstrate how simple tests done in SPD can help increase confidence in barrier integrity or identify breaches you may have missed.</p>	<p>CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM</p> <p>CS/SPD 1.0 CH CBSPD</p>	Faculty
ESP-Lint from SPD in My Patient!	<p>Lint. So little I can hardly see it. Even if it did get in the patient, it's soft, it's sterile, and it will probably dissolve in a few days; right? No way! Most fibers will never dissolve. The patient's body will work hard to prevent the foreign invader from harming the rest of the body. If deposited in the bloodstream, a blood clot forms trying to trap the lint. If in the surgical wound, inflammatory response tries to kill the fibers. White blood cells consume the particle forming a white barnacle-like granuloma. Adhesions like spider webs try to tie-down the lint. Unfortunately, adhesions contract causing pain and even strangling vital organ functions.</p>	<p>CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM</p>	Faculty

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
ESP-DVD: Evaluating Sterilization Wrap: What You Need to Know *CBSPD Expires 12/23/2021	<p>As reported by the World Health Organization, healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are the most frequent adverse event in health-care delivery worldwide. Solutions to this world-wide problem include the implementation of infection prevention and control measures. The appropriate selection and use of quality sterilization wrap plays an essential role in the implementation of these measures. This educational program will review sterilization wrap's four-fold role in the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and explore the desired performance attributes of sterilization wrap. Finally, information used to effectively compare and evaluate sterilization wrap will be described.</p>	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
ESP-DVD: Event-Related Sterility Maintenance: A Review	<p>Since many events may compromise the sterility of packaging systems, careful planning, written policies, and continuous best practices must be employed to ensure safe and effective sterility maintenance. Fundamental to an event-related sterility maintenance or "ERSM" policy is a thorough understanding of the events that can affect sterility and the establishment and maintenance of written procedures that detail what action should be taken if a potential package-contaminating event occurs. This program will review the benefits of ERSM and identify factors that can compromise the sterility of a wrapped package. Practices required for the sterility maintenance of packaging systems will also be discussed.</p>	CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
ESP-DVD: It's a Wrap: Guidelines for Wrapping Techniques in SPD	<p>Sterile Processing Professionals should establish policies for wrapping that are consistent with standards and written IFUs. Adherence to these policies and procedures is important to ensure effective sterilization, to maintain sterility until the package is opened, and to promote aseptic opening at the point of use. This program will explain general considerations for packaging items for sterilization, demonstrate five different wrapping techniques, and provide suggestions for proper handling of the sterilized packages.</p>	CS/SPD: 1 CH (IAHCSSM)	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
ESP-DVD: Selection and Use of Rigid Containers for Sterilization	Healthcare facilities have many single-use and multiple-use packaging options for sterilization. The selection and use of appropriate packaging systems can be challenging given the continuous development of sophisticated and complicated surgical devices and the increasing variety of sterilization processes. This program will enable the end user to have a better understanding of one type of packaging system: rigid containers. Considerations for the selection and use of rigid containers including appropriate inspection, preparation, assembly, sterilization practices, cleaning and decontamination will be reviewed. Measures for a comprehensive quality assurance program required for the optimal selection and use of rigid containers will also be addressed.	CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
ESP-DVD: Sterilization Wrap: Tear Identification & Handling Technique	There are many ways the sterility of a wrapped package can become compromised. Whether caused by moisture, soil, or physical damage, it is critical to recognize a potentially contaminated package and pull it from the inventory for reprocessing. By recognizing visual cues to package compromise and placing an emphasis on proper handling techniques, microorganism penetration and contamination of the contents can be avoided. This program will review factors that compromise the sterility of a wrapped package and identify the types of tears that may occur. Causes for these tears and prevention strategies through proper handling will also be discussed.	CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
ESP: We're Having an Inspection!!! How Do We Prepare? *CBSPD Expires 11/6/2021	This ESP module covers the following: Find out who is inspecting and generally what will be required More about TJC and its process. Procure and review appropriate Standards and Guidelines. Possible areas of focus according to ANSI/AAMI ST 79. Questions to Ask Yourself. For any non-compliances – assign who, what, and by when to be corrected. Document that any non-compliances have been resolved	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	Faculty
ESP-DVD: Wet Packs: Strategies for Prevention and Resolution	A “wet pack” refers to a package that has residual moisture after the steam sterilization and cooling procedures have been completed. This moisture may be found on or within the package and is a major concern as moisture serves as a pathway for microorganisms and contamination of the packaged contents. Given this potential, all wet packs should be considered contaminated, necessitating re-packaging and reprocessing. To avoid this time-consuming and costly reprocessing, best practice strategies must be employed. This program will review the definition, consequences, and causes of wet packs. Strategies to prevent and resolve wet packs will also be discussed.	CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO

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ESP-DVD: Wrapping Trays for Sterilization *CBSPD Expires 12/23/2021	<p>When wrapping trays for sterilization, primary objectives to keep in mind include achieving sterilization of the contents and maintenance of sterility when the trays are stored, handled or opened. Does the wrap you are using allow for appropriate sterilization? Is the technique you use to wrap trays for sterilization enable the package to withstand the contamination challenge via storage, handling, and opening? This educational program will provide information to assist the end user in answering these questions by reviewing key areas of focus for appropriate wrapping practice. Environmental considerations as well as sterilization wrap size and grade requirements will also be described. And finally, wrapping techniques and tips for wrapping trays will be explored.</p>	<p>CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD</p> <p>CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM</p>	<p>THUMB DRIVE VIDEO</p>
ESP-SG: Bacterial Filtration *CBSPD Expires 5/1/2022	<p>This module describes the way wrap works as a microbial filter and defines the FDA's sterilization wrap classification system which impacts the hospital's ability to choose products. Also described are the most common ways of contaminating sterile packages and the three different barrier fabrics and their filtration capabilities.</p>	<p>CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD</p> <p>CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM</p>	<p>Facilitated study guide</p>
ESP-SG: Cost of Instrument Tray Processing *CBSPD Expires 5/1/2022	<p>This module focuses on the analysis of the actual cost of processing a wrapped instrument tray through the sterile processing department. Calculations for compromised wrap, reprocessing labor, etc. are presented. Ultimately these calculations can be used to reduce total cost within the department. Participants will learn how to perform a cost of processing study and use the information to determine if costs can be reduced in one or more of three ways: 1) tray expiration/reprocessing costs, 2) price or amount of consumables used and 3) tray processing labor time optimization.</p>	<p>CS/SPD: 2 CH CBSPD</p> <p>CS/SPD: 2 CH IAHCSSM</p>	<p>Facilitated study guide</p>
ESP-SG: Decontamination Attire *CBSPD Expires 5/1/2022	<p>This module defines decontamination, describes bloodborne pathogens, and identifies which are of special concern to health care workers. "Exposure incidents" are defined and the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is described.</p>	<p>CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD</p> <p>CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM</p>	<p>Facilitated study guide</p>

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ESP-SG: Immediate-Use Steam Sterilization	Immediate-Use Steam Sterilization (IUSS) continues to be a controversial topic. This ESP defines IUSS, lists reasons for the increased routine usage of this type of sterilization, details the criteria for how to do it properly, explains the concerns about routine flashing, and gives ideas on how routine IUSS may be reduced.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
		CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	
*CBSPD Expires 5/1/2022			
ESP-SG: Low Temperature Sterilization	This module explores the low temperature technology alternatives to steam including ethylene oxide in its various forms, gas plasma, liquid chemicals, and newer technologies in development.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
		CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	
ESP-SG: Microbiology of Sterilization	This module defines sterilization in terms of healthcare facilities, describes the four phases of a microbe's life cycle, lists the factors which control the reproduction of microbes and identifies factors that can destroy them.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
		CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	
ESP-SG: Package Cycle & Contamination Prevention	This module discusses the different demands put on packaging systems from preparing the contents to presentation at the surgical suite. Policy recommendations for handling the various stages of the package's cycle are provided. Wrap performance attributes required at each of these stages and options for test standards to compare and evaluate packaging performance at the various stages are discussed.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
		CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	
*CBSPD Expires 5/1/2022			
ESP-SG: Pouches vs. Wrap	This module discusses the two main packaging options in the hospital environment – pouches and wrap. Examples and rationale for the use of different materials and wrapping methods are provided. The factors that influence the most appropriate type of packaging are discussed. Also presented are the four questions to ask regarding aseptic opening of a sterile package.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
		CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	

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ESP-SG: Returning Reusable Sharps for Decontamination *CBSPD Expires 5/1/2022	This module focuses on OSHA requirements for the return of reusable sharps. Included is an explanation of which instruments are classified as reusable, the definition of decontamination and a clarification of the requirements for reusable sharps containers. Considerations for establishing a facility policy for transporting and decontaminating reusable sharps is presented.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	Facilitated study guide
ESP-SG: Steam Sterilizer Loading *CBSPD Expires 5/1/2022	This module describes proper loading of the steam sterilizer and the elements which are necessary to assure proper sterilization of the load.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	Facilitated study guide
Fire Safety in the Operating Room – Strategies for Keeping it Safe – Revised 2010	Fires in the operating room are always unexpected and can occur in a patient’s airway, face, body surface, surgical wound, and perineal area – potentially resulting in severe pain, disfigurement and, in some cases, death. Injuries are not limited to patients alone; they may also involve healthcare personnel. Regardless of who sustains physical injury, all individuals involved in the incident can experience long-term emotional trauma. Many healthcare professionals do not recognize the potential for fire, are skeptical that the threat exists as so few happen each year, or simply believe it will not happen to them. However, the threat of fire is real, and preventing operating room fires is a patient safety imperative. Therefore, it is vital that each member of the perioperative team understand the causes of these events and follow appropriate fire safety practices.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO Online

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Have Bug, Will Travel: An Infection in Transit	Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) affect over 1.4 million people every day globally. In the U.S., there are over 2 million new cases of HAIs annually. HAIs are currently the 5 th leading cause of death in hospitals-over 90,000 deaths. It is estimated that HAIs increase hospital costs by almost \$7 billion annually in the U.S. alone. For these reasons, healthcare facilities are focusing on the eradication of infectious agents causing HAIs and on proper containment when an outbreak occurs. Eradication and containment depend upon educating all healthcare workers in proper procedures (e.g. proper hand-washing, cleaning patient care areas and equipment effectively, putting on and removing personal protective equipment correctly). The purpose of this presentation is to educate healthcare workers regarding the magnitude of the problem of HAIs, the ease with which contamination and contact transfer occurs, and best practice strategies and resources to prevent the transmission of HAIs.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO Faculty

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
<p>How do you know if your sterilized instruments remain sterile?</p> <p>*CBSPD Expires 4/4/2022</p>	<p>Infection prevention for surgical patients is becoming more significant as perioperative personnel are challenged by new pathogens, multi-drug resistant organisms, and the increased economic pressures to reduce health care-associated infections. A key strategy for reducing the risk of infection during an operative or invasive procedure is to provide surgical instruments and devices that are sterile at the time of use. In order to assure their sterility, surgical instruments and other medical devices must be packaged appropriately before sterilization. A sterilization packaging system must provide an effective barrier against contaminants via both airborne and contact transmission routes during package handling and storage. But how do you know if a sterilized package remains sterile after processing? This continuing education activity will provide a review of sterility maintenance using sterilization packaging systems for preventing surgical site infections, with a focus on rigid containers and sterilization wrap. Types of rigid containers and wraps available for use today will be reviewed. Key aspects of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation/American National Standards Institute (AAMI/ANSI) ST77 standards related to the sterility maintenance testing of sterilization packaging systems will be outlined. A recent sterility maintenance study evaluating the effectiveness of rigid containers versus wrapped instrument trays using a dynamic bioaerosol test method will be described. The results and implications for perioperative patient care will also be discussed.</p>	<p>Nurses: 2.0 CH CA Board</p> <p>CS/SPD: 2.0 CH CBSPD</p> <p>CS/SPD: 2.0 CH IAHCSSM</p>	<p>Faculty</p>
<p>Identifying & Implementing Sustainability Initiatives</p>	<p>This educational activity shows you the impact of waste on the environment and explains how you can develop sustainability goals for your facility. You will learn steps to attaining a green environment and recognize the cost savings achievable through waste reduction. We will discuss ways to repurpose recycled materials and you will see how you can create a sustainability scorecard.</p>	<p>CS/SPD: 0.5 CH IAHCSSM</p>	<p>Faculty</p>

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Is Your PPE Protecting You? What You Don't Know May Hurt You	<p>During surgical procedures, both the patient and members of the perioperative team are at risk for exposure to infectious agents through pathogen penetration of surgical gowns and surgical masks worn as surgical personal protective equipment (PPE). Therefore, surgical PPE with appropriate barrier protection is essential. To protect patients, other members of the perioperative team, and themselves, perioperative nurses should be aware of the relevant standards, guidelines, and professional recommendations that address surgical PPE. Through this knowledge, they are better equipped to make appropriate surgical PPE selections thereby reducing exposure to blood, bodily fluids, and other potentially infectious material (OPIM). This educational activity will discuss the importance of questioning barrier protection and assist members of the perioperative team to understand the standards and guidelines that relate to surgical PPE. An explanation of why all surgical PPE is not created equal will be presented, as well as a description of strategies that are appropriate for selecting surgical gowns and surgical masks. Information herein regarding protection levels of surgical gowns and masks may also be valuable for sterile processing department (SPD) personnel, especially when working in the decontamination area. In certain circumstances, the use of a surgical gown and mask or a mask in combination with eye protection may be appropriate in SPD. Although surgical gloves and protective eyewear are also considered to be a part of surgical PPE, they are beyond the scope of this educational activity.</p>	Nurses: 2 CH CA Board	Faculty

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It'll All Come Out in the Wash: Evaluating the Performance of Surgical Fabrics	In today's surgical practice settings, the risk of transmitting infectious agents is a primary concern for the surgical team. Surgical fabrics (ie, gowns, drapes, and sterilization wraps) are intended to protect both patients as well as members of the surgical team from this risk; however, multi-use and single-use fabrics vary in the level of the protection, comfort, and cost-effectiveness they provide. Therefore, perioperative personnel must understand the differences between multi-use and single-use surgical fabrics in order to select the appropriate product to provide a safe environment of care for both patients and staff members. This continuing education activity will provide a review of the key criteria for evaluating the performance of surgical fabrics. The historical evolution of surgical barrier fabrics will be reviewed. The critical traits of quality surgical fabrics will be outlined, including a discussion of their clinical significance in the perioperative practice setting, with a focus on linting and barrier protection. Important test data that should be obtained from the manufacturer and used in the evaluation of surgical fabrics will be reviewed. Finally, the differences in the essential qualities of multi-use and single-use barrier fabrics will be discussed.	Nurses: 2 CH CA Board	Online
Keep the Bugs Out: From Sterile Processing to Presentation in the OR	Why have some bacteria become more aggressive and patients more vulnerable to infection over the last 60 years? How do patients become infected? Why do some bacteria survive decontamination, sterilization, and high-level disinfection? By what means do bacteria penetrate sterile wrapped packs and rigid containers? How are perfectly sterile instruments contaminated in the OR even before the first surgical incision is made? Those attending this session will have these questions answered and will learn recommendations for ensuring the sterility of instruments and devices prepared by CS teams.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	Faculty

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MRSA – A Personal Case Study	Surgical site infections (SSI), such as methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> can have a profound effect on patients. Perioperative personnel, including sterile processing personnel, are at the center of SSI reduction and have the opportunity to mitigate the risk of SSIs through all phases of perioperative patient care as well as the instrument care and processing that occurs in the sterile processing department. This activity will explore the importance of SSI reduction and management. The impact on patient outcomes will be discussed and the scenarios in which patient advocacy is critical will be reviewed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	Faculty
MRSA: Time for Action	Some strains of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , an organism commonly found in human body flora, have built up immunity to numerous antibiotics including penicillinase-resistant penicillins such as methicillin. These strains are now referred to as Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> or MRSA. This program addresses the growing prevalence of MRSA, risk factors for the patient, modes of transmission, and strategies to reduce or eliminate its transmission.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO/SG
Of Critical Importance: Improving Communication in CSSD and with the OR	The fact of the matter is good communication skills are just as important as good technical skills. Tension and stress can be reduced when there is a sense of teamwork and trust, and that is the result of open and honest communication. In this program, we will discuss barriers to effective communication, professional communication protocols, how to apply successful speaking skills, and improve listening skills, tips for effective communication during stressful situations, scenarios that demonstrate effective communication between CSSD and the OR, and considerations when communication is not face-to-face.	CS/SPD: 1.0 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
Of Critical Importance: Package Selection, Preparation and Technique	To ensure successful sterilization, storage, transport and aseptic presentation of instruments, CS technicians must select the appropriate packaging for the sterilization method as well as the items being sterilized. In this program, we will review considerations when selecting packaging materials: sterilization wrap, rigid containment systems and peel packs, packaging techniques for peel packs, considerations when packaging rigid containment systems, wrapping techniques for sterilization wrap, and labeling requirements.	CS/SPD: 1.0 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO

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Abbreviations: ADA=American Dental Association; ANCC=American Nurses Credentialing Center; AST=Association of Surgical Technologists; CA Board = California Board of Nursing; CE= continuing education; CBSPD = Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution; CH=credit hour; CS/SPD= Central Service/Sterile Processing Department; ESP=Excellence in Sterile Processing; IAHCSSM= International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management; ST=Surgical Technologists

Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
Of Critical Importance: Preventing and Troubleshooting Wet Packs	Wet packs are frustrating for many reasons, including the potential danger a wet pack poses to a patient, service delays, and the work required to reprocess items. In this program, we will illustrate the steam sterilization process, primary causes of wet packs, specific causes related to external wetness vs. internal wetness, and strategies to prevent wet packs.	CS/SPD: 1.0 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
Of Critical Importance: Sustainability in the CSSD and OR Environments	For healthcare organizations, sustainability means integrating practices into the way that hospitals do business that lead to healthier people, healthier communities and a healthier planet. Each member of the CSSD team can participate. In this program, we will discuss benefits of sustainability, reusable vs. recyclable products, ideas for reducing consumption, considerations for developing efficiencies, managing waste and repurposing materials.	CS/SPD: 1.0 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
Oh, I Just Work in Sterile Processing	What do you have in common with the following individuals: a parachute packer, a brake repairman, a 911 operator, a bungee cord assembler, a pit crew member, an O-ring manufacturer, Ignaz Semmelweis, Joseph Lister, a scrub nurse, a Cardiovascular surgeon and a front-line infantryman? What is the difference between a job and a career? How do you differentiate between a task-worker and a professional? When can you say you do not need to learn anymore about what you are responsible for? What difference does it make? In this presentation we will explore just how important your answers to each of these questions are. You will be challenged to think deeply about your role in patient care and recovery. The answers you decide to leave with, will dictate the quality of your work and your level of satisfaction with what you do. They will significantly impact the quality of life for you, your family and your patients.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board CS/SPD: 1.0 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO Faculty

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On the Level: The New ASTM F2100 Mask Performance Rating	In the healthcare setting, choosing the appropriate face mask is a key component in minimizing the spread of potentially infectious diseases. It is recommended that dental healthcare workers choose masks that protects against microorganisms generated by them to others. Masks should also protect the wearer from large-particle droplet spatter that may contain bloodborne pathogens or other infectious microorganisms. The <i>ASTM F2100-11 Standard Specification for Performance of Materials Used in Medical Face Masks</i> will assist with that choice by requiring standardized testing and a graphic display on the primary mask packaging that rates the performance level of the mask. The purpose of this program is to review mask recommendations for dental professionals and to discuss the roles of the FDA and ASTM as relates to medical face masks. The new ASTM F2100-11 mask performance rating will be described with a review of how this new rating can assist with appropriate mask selection.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
PPE and Pandemic Preparedness	Illness and disease have plagued mankind since the beginning of time. When an infectious microorganism and a susceptible host are present in sufficient quantities, the infectious microorganism can be transferred from the source to the susceptible host in epidemic proportions (i.e., numbers greater than what is anticipated for the population in a particular area). This course will teach you critical elements of pandemic preparedness include recognizing how infectious diseases are transmitted and the reasons that pandemics occur, understanding the need for using personal protective equipment (PPE) and the necessity for wearing it correctly, and the importance of advance planning to ensure that sufficient PPE is readily available during a pandemic	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Faculty

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Preventing Central Line Complications: A Focus on Thrombosis & Infection	Central Lines are essential to for infusion of potent vasoactive drugs, highly osmotic or hypertonic solutions, total parenteral nutrition, incompatible medications, and cytotoxic drugs. Central lines are also essential for hemodialysis, hemofiltration and hemodynamic monitoring. Between 5 and 6 million central lines are placed annually in the United States. The profound impact of the complications associated with central lines is so critical that efforts to prevent their occurrence should be routine elements of quality improvement programs. The frequency of central line associated complications is estimated to be between 5% and 19% depending on definitions and numerous vulnerability factors. There are several preventative measures that can be taken before, during, and after catheter insertion to reduce associated complications. Many will be discussed in this course with emphasis on infection and thrombosis risk reduction.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO Faculty
Preventing Pressure Injuries/Ulcers in Surgical Patients	Medical personnel are challenged with preventing pressure ulcers in the peri-operative environment due to prolonged periods of patient immobility, compromised circulatory function, and preexisting conditions of many surgical patient populations. While great strides have been made in protecting the patient, peri-operatively acquired pressure ulcers continue to occur. These skin injuries may result in extended hospital stays, increased medical costs, and prolonged morbidity. The healthcare facility may also incur costly financial and legal ramifications from these injuries. In this education program, the impact of surgical pressure ulcers, contributing factors for their development, and prevention strategies will be discussed	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online THUMB DRIVE VIDEO
Sterile Lint & Fibers in the OR: What's the Big Deal?	This continuing nursing education activity will discuss foreign debris-initiated post-surgical complications and their associated pathological mechanisms. It will review the sources of debris contamination, including a description of foreign microbody characteristics that can further amplify pathological responses. Strategies to determine the presence of lint in the OR and recommendations for minimizing their presence will be discussed. Effective ways to evaluate the potential for products to shed lint and fibers will be outlined. Finally, the economic implications of hospital-acquired conditions that may occur from lint and fibers in the OR will be reviewed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online

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Sterile Lint & Particles: Do they Put Patients at Risk? *CBSPD Expires 12/31/2021	<p>One of the most important attributes of a living organism is the capacity to self-repair. This ability is expected and observed every time a patient undergoes a major or minor invasive procedure. Needless to say, lack of this healing ability would render surgery useless and every injury, whether large or small, would be a potential death sentence. Suboptimal conditions can delay or interrupt the auto-processing sequence of repair and lead to various anomalies. One area related to wound healing that has had considerable focus in some surgical specialties, but is often neglected in others, is the impact of foreign microbody contamination, ie, minute pieces of debris left in the surgical site. The presence of these foreign microbodies can cause various postsurgical complications including blood clots, infection, amplified and prolonged inflammation, granulomas, and adhesions. This education activity will discuss foreign debris-initiated post-surgical complications and their associated pathological mechanisms. It will review the sources of debris contamination, including a description of foreign microbody characteristics that can further amplify pathological responses, and provide recommendations for determining the sources of lint contamination and how to reduce its presence.</p>	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	THUMB DRIVE VIDEO Faculty
Stress in the SPD: Why does it happen and how can we manage it?	<p>This course will identify stressors typically experienced in the healthcare work environment, describe self-care opportunities for sterile processing personnel and discuss how to build self-care skills</p>	CS/SPD: 0.5 CH IAHCSSM	Webinar Faculty

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Surgical Gowns: Selection and Best Practices for Protection-with Study Guide	In the perioperative practice environment, prevention of infection for both surgical patients and healthcare workers is an overriding goal. The appropriate selection and use of surgical gowns is a key component in infection control strategies. Therefore, perioperative personnel must be knowledgeable about the key considerations in selecting and using gowns effectively in the surgical practice setting. This continuing education activity will provide an overview of the key considerations in the selection and use of surgical gowns and a protective measure for both patients and staff. It will review the five criteria used in the selection of surgical gowns: barrier protection, flammability resistance, low linting, abrasion resistance, and comfort. The various types of materials used in the manufacture of surgical gowns, as well as industry tests will be discussed. Best practices in the donning, use, and removal of surgical gowns will be explored. Upon completion of this continuing education activity, the participant should be able to: identify five criteria for the selection of surgical gowns, describe selection criteria for surgical gowns, and discuss best practices for surgical gown protection.	Nurses: 2.0 CH CA Board	Online
The Importance of Maintaining Sterile Instruments	Sterilization Packaging Systems are critical components of quality healthcare as they must maintain the sterility of their contents until presented for use. Defective, damaged or poorly designed packaging systems may allow infiltration of microorganisms, leading to contaminated contents that may in turn contribute to surgical site infections (SSIs) and other hospital associated infections (HAIs). Recent research studies have documented that many factors may contribute to package contamination post sterilization. These factors, and how they can be mitigated, will be discussed.	CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	Faculty
Transforming Your SPD for the Betterment of Your Patients, Profits, and People *CBSPD Expires 7/19/2021	This presentation will provide a step-by-step roadmap designed to teach attendees how to turn an ordinary SPD into an extraordinary SPD. It will show how creating "An SPD of the Future" can elevate patient safety, enhance performance, increase employee pride and moral, and pay off financially.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD CS/SPD: 1 CH IAHCSSM	Faculty

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Understanding the Standards: USP <800> and PPE for Chemotherapy	For patients diagnosed with cancer, the potential benefits of treatment with chemotherapeutic agents usually outweigh the risks, but it is important that healthcare workers (HCWs) minimize occupational exposure to these drugs to avoid experiencing documented health risks. This program highlights recent studies and statistics related to HCWs exposure to chemotherapy drugs, explains why the right protection is so important, and summarizes guidelines issued by government agencies and professional organizations for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimize occupational exposure.	Nurses: 2.0 CH CA Board	Faculty