

## Sterile Supply Department Guidelines for planning and Quality Management



### Introduction to the Guidelines

Need has been felt for establishing quality management and quality assurance procedures in the hospital so as to make the same more effective, economical and accountable. Infection control is an integral part of quality assurance and the sterile Supply Department (SSD) is an important aspect of this services. With the upgrading of knowledge and technology in the health care delivery system, the place of SSD in terms of reducing hospital infection, providing quality medical care and reducing costs has become well established.

Once a health care facility has been planned and equipped, there is the need to manage it scientifically so that quality services is provided to patients on a continued basis with high reliability and reproducibility. While basic management principals and individual skills are helpful in such efforts, optimum results can be achieved only if certain standards and guidelines are available for the management of the operational systems of health care services. For this purpose it is necessary as a first step to lay down norms and standards and then provide the requisite infrastructure needed to achieve the desired targets. The introduction of Consumer Protection Act (1986) has made it essential to upgrade and standardize the treatment and services component of the health care sector.

The aim of these guidelines is to provide knowledge and review the existing practices for evolving a well planned and systematic management procedure for SSD in a hospital. They have been prepared keeping in view the minimum resources available with respect to functional requirements such as space, manpower, equipment and building requirements in various categories of hospitals. The guidelines do not provide the specifications of equipment for which the appropriate document from the Bureau of Indian Standards may be consulted.

For the sake of convenience, this document is presented in 4 sections relating to:

1. Planning and design of SSD
2. Sterilization processes
3. Monitoring and record keeping
4. Education and training of personnel

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