

What will UNC Health Care do regarding the Steris System 1 and Steris System 1E?

UNC Health Care will eliminate the use of the Steris System 1 over the next several months. We will use the replacement reprocessor, the Steris System 1E, for reprocessing semicritical items that require high-level disinfection. As a general rule, the Steris System 1E will not be used to reprocess critical items as critical items should be sterile and with the Steris System 1E the final processed device cannot be assured to be sterile. Thus, heat-sensitive critical devices will be sterilized by other validated, FDA-cleared, sterilization processes such as hydrogen peroxide gas plasma, ETO, vaporized hydrogen peroxide and ozone. If a heat-sensitive critical device truly cannot be processed by any other modality than Steris System 1E, then we are left with the decision between not using the device at all or reprocessing it in a Steris System 1E. The decision to use Steris System 1E for a heat-sensitive critical item that cannot be processed by an alternative sterilization process will be made on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with Hospital Epidemiology and Risk Management.

<http://disinfectionandsterilization.org/SterisUNCHC.pdf>

William A. Rutala, Ph.D., M.P.H.

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