



# STERILE PROCESSING

## DURHAM COLLEGE CERTIFICATE

Revised: 01/13

This program will provide you with the skills to function safely and competently in a processing department or surgical suite in an acute care hospital setting. This certificate program equips a sterile supply processing technician to decontaminate, disinfect, inspect, assemble, sterilize, and store sterile supplies and reusable patient care equipment. Training is broad-based to ensure transferability of knowledge and skills to other tertiary care settings.

### PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates have reliably demonstrated the following learning outcomes:

- Perform the principles of infection control and personal protection in the decontamination, packaging and sterilization of instruments and equipment.
- Perform decontamination procedures and practices for patient care equipment and surgical instruments.
- Prepare equipment and supplies for sterilization.
- Package instruments and supplies.
- Sterilize instruments and supplies.
- Clean Check and prepare micro-instruments for sterilization.
- Identify predictable problems in the care and handling of instrumentation.
- Apply the principles of inventory control, sterile storage and distribution of supplies.
- Communicate effectively with co-workers.
- Apply knowledge of the role of the Sterile Processing Technician:
  - a. relation to the patient, the team, and the health care system and
  - b. appreciate the importance of the team approach.
- Apply Canadian Sterilization Association's safety standards in practice settings.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

People employed in health services may be employed in:

- Clinics;
- Community health centres;
- Hospitals;
- Laboratories;
- Pharmacies;
- Private professional practices; and
- Specialized retail sales.

Support workers in private clinics, laboratories or pharmacies may learn the technical skills required and with further training may advance to full-time work in these assistant or technician positions. In larger organizations there may be supervisory positions available for technicians with extensive experience.