

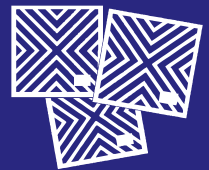
Four Steps to Steam Sterilization Monitoring Assurance

In order to help deliver sterile and safe instruments to every patient, and save you time when resources are limited, 3M took best practices from the 2017 AAMI ST79 *Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization and Sterility Assurance in Health Care Facilities*¹ and streamlined them into four steps for steam sterilization monitoring standardization.

1

Practice equipment monitoring to find out whether your sterilizer is doing its job properly.

To monitor vacuum-assisted steam sterilizers, begin each day with a Bowie-Dick test to detect air leaks, inadequate air removal, inadequate steam penetration and the presence of non-condensable gases, any of which can compromise sterility.



2

Use exposure monitoring products to know quickly whether packs have been exposed to steam during the sterilization process.

This step assures staff handling the items that the pack has been exposed to steam during the sterilization process without the need to open the pack or check load monitoring records.



3

Use pack monitoring to help verify specific exposure conditions have been met.

The use of chemical indicators for internal monitoring of packs, trays, containers and peel pouches verifies the sterilant has penetrated to the point of placement of the chemical indicator in the pack and confirms that specific exposure conditions have been met.



4

Monitor every load with a biological indicator.

Load monitoring is the process by which a load is monitored and released based on the result of a biological indicator (BI) in a process challenge device (PCD). Only a BI can detect the actual killing of microbial spores inside the sterilizer. If all spores die inside the BI, you have assurance that other infectious organisms have also likely died inside the sterilizer.



Find more ways to help reduce the risk of sterilization monitoring variation at [3M.com/Peak](https://www.3m.com/Peak).

