

3M™ Attest™ Biological Indicators

Every Load Monitoring



Raising Standards, Reducing Risks

Because **every** patient deserves the highest standard of care



Your Challenge—Patient Safety

Your healthcare organization spends a lot of time, energy, and resources to make sure every patient receives a consistent, high level of care. In the Sterile Processing Department (SPD), your role is mission-critical and your world revolves around ensuring patient safety by providing sterile equipment, on time, while controlling costs.

A proven way to ensure patient safety is to monitor each and *every* load, *every* time, with a biological indicator. With 3M's **Every Load Monitoring** program, you'll discover what many other SPD teams have already found—when you monitor every load of instruments, you raise standards, reduce risk, and remain compliant with patient safety guidelines (CDC, AORN and AAMI guidelines all state implants should be quarantined until a Biological Indicator (BI) result is known). You'll also streamline your workflow, simplify training, and reduce the opportunity for human error.

Raising Standards

Like all Sterile Processing Departments, you set high standards for your work—and you'll do whatever it takes to protect each patient from infection. When it comes to the sterilization of instruments, **Every Load Monitoring** is the highest standard. It's considered an industry best practice, and, in fact, it is quickly becoming the community standard. When you monitor every load, you provide the same level of care to each and every patient served by your facility.

Why?

Because proper cleaning and decontamination, followed by sterilization with a biological indicator in every load, provides the utmost level of assurance that each cycle was efficacious.

With **Every Load Monitoring**, you provide the same high level of monitoring to *all* loads, for all procedures, for *all* patients—every patient gets the highest standard of care.



Biological Indicators—The Confidence of a Biological Result

“Biological Indicators are the *only* process indicators that directly monitor the lethality of a given sterilization process.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

“We want the ‘Gold Standard’ sterility that the BI gives: Every Patient—Every Time.”

*Donna McLaughlin
Sterile Processing Manager
Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center,
Knoxville, TN*

Reducing Risks

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) continue to be a challenge for healthcare facilities. With **Every Load Monitoring**, you can help reduce the risk of, and costs associated with, Surgical Site Infections (SSIs).

The high cost of HAIs:

- SSIs cost approximately \$60,000 per patient to treat and increase each patient's hospital stay by six days.²
- Since 2008, Medicare and Medicaid no longer reimburse facilities for costs related to preventable HAIs.³
- Infections acquired in the hospital cost the U.S. health care system \$10 billion a year.⁴

Managing Reputation

You've worked hard to establish and maintain your department's reputation within your facility. When a load is recalled, the impact is felt throughout the facility. Recalls require staff time to notify parties, investigate, review records, recall all loads back to the last negative BI, re-process, and write reports. When you factor in the time, labor and materials, the cost could easily reach into the thousands of dollars.

With **Every Load Monitoring**, there is much less potential for the disruption of a recall—benefitting patients, surgeons, operating rooms, and SPD staff.

Relief from Painful Recalls

"Ten years ago, we had a large recall. It was a difficult situation and emotionally draining. After everything we went through, it was easy to solicit support for **Every Load Monitoring**. Now, a recall deals with only one load. We can reprocess the load quickly without upset to 'User' departments."

*Donna McLaughlin
Sterile Processing Manager
Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, Knoxville TN*

1 in 25
hospital
patients
has at least
one HAI⁵

1 in 50
surgery
patients
acquire a Surgical
Site Infection (SSI)⁴

722,000 HAIs
in U.S. acute
care hospitals⁵

75,000
people
in the U.S. die from
HAIs annually⁵

\$60,000
cost to treat
an SSI²

\$10 billion
annual cost to deal
with HAIs⁴

40-60%
of SSIs are
preventable⁶

Standardizing Practice

Staff turnover and shortages, training challenges, and the day-to-day pressure to deliver sterile instruments on time can all contribute to human errors in sterile processing. **Every Load Monitoring** streamlines procedures and training, reduces opportunities for human error, and simplifies your work, because it:

- Leads to a consistent, standardized practice—technicians follow the same process for every load.
- Leaves less chance for confusion, mix-ups and errors.
- Reduces the risk of failing to properly monitor an implant load.
- Simplifies (and shortens) the training process.

Facilities that practice **Every Load Monitoring** are more likely to identify sterilization process failures than facilities that monitor daily.

Why WE Practice Every Load Monitoring

Sterile Processing Professionals explain:

“When we perform the same process for each load, we’re able to reduce operator error.”

“We want to be the leader in sterilization, ahead of the curve, with the highest standard of care for our patients.”

“Bottom line? We don’t want to go through another expensive recall.”

“With our staffing shortages in the SPD, it’s easier to train new employees.”

“Now, we’re confident that we’re doing everything we can to provide sterile instruments.”



To learn how you can implement **Every Load Monitoring**, contact your 3M sales representative today.

REFERENCES

1. CDC “Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008.”
2. McNamara SA, Lassiter S., How to navigate the journey to where the wild things (SSIs) are in the OR. 3/29/2012. (<https://www.aorn.org/News.aspx?id=22617&terms=cost%20of%20a%20ssi>).
3. Peterson D, Qutaishat S. “A Call to Action: Eliminating Healthcare-Associated Infections”. Copyright 2008 by Virgo Publishing. <http://www.infectioncontrolday.com>.
4. Perl T, Zimlichman E. “Hospital Acquired Infections Cost \$10 Billion a Year”, *JAMA Internal Medicine*, Sept 2, 2013.
5. CDC HAI Prevalence Survey, 2011 (<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/surveillance/>).
6. Institute for Healthcare Improvement, “Changes to Prevent Surgical Site Infection.” (<http://www.ihl.org/resources/Pages/Changes/ChangestoPreventSurgicalSiteInfection.aspx>).



Infection Prevention Division
3M Health Care
2510 Conway Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000
USA
1-800-228-3957
www.3M.com/infectionprevention

3M and Attest are trademarks of 3M.
Please recycle. Printed in U.S.A.
© 3M 2015. All rights reserved.
70-2011-5676-0