Sterilizing Implants in the OR
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To Begin

- Collected volume data by the month.
- Reviewed documentation:
  - Completeness of sterilization records?
  - Reasons for “flashing” implants?
- Three trends noted:
  - Performing > procedures/day than vendors were bringing in sets for
  - Vendors bringing in unsterile pans
  - Torn wrappers
Reasons For Implants Sterilized in the OR

- Contaminated
- >1 procedure per set
- Torn Wrapper
- Arrived Unsterile
Steps Taken

- Ortho/Neuro Team Leader & CS Manager decided that “flashing” implants was NOT a best practice.
- Provided re-education on hospital policy that vendor sets must be in sterile processing at least 24 hours in advance or they were not guaranteed to be ready for the case.
- Purchased additional rigid sterilization containers for implants to eliminate torn wrappers
Key Support

• Clinical Team Leader held the vendors’ “feet to the fire” & made them understand the facility requirements needed to eliminate “flashing” implants

• Back up implants were to be available if needed (torn wrappers, contaminated) or the surgeons agreed to use alternative vendor’s system.

• Increased focus by the CS staff to complete all sets by time needed.

• Increased communication with stakeholders to prioritize processing/sterilization of vendor sets
Data & Improvements

- 2004 average was 15.75 implants/month
- 2005 decreased to 6.7 avg/month
- 2006 decreased to 2.5 avg/month
- 2007 continued decrease to 2 avg/month
- 2008 moved to .75 avg/month
- YTD 2009 .5 avg/month
STERILIZATION OF IMPLANTS IN THE OR

 years

 Avg Implants/Month

0  2  4  6  8  10  12  14  16  18

1  2  3  4  5  6
Keys to Success

The top three things that made this a success within our facility were:

1. Resolve & fortitude of the Ortho/Neuro Team Leader who NEVER gave up

2. Teamwork, dedication & increased focus by the CS staff

3. Vendor motivation to ensure their system was used by increased compliance with hospital vendor guidelines
Next Steps

- Maintain quality improvement by monthly measurement of implant “flash” rate
- Ongoing staff & vendor education to ensure compliance:
  - posted guidelines & expectations
  - regular staff education & communication
- Maintain collaborative relationship between OR & CS to monitor & review “flash” occurrences in the OR