

I
HEARD IT
THROUGH
THE

STEAMLINE

N.C. ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPITAL CENTRAL SERVICE PERSONNEL NEWSLETTER

What's New?

Ethylene oxide sterilization remains the proven method of sterilizing instruments and supplies in hospitals. Although most hospital items requiring sterilization are done by steam, ETO sterilization of delicate and heat sensitive items is needed. Until an alternative method to ethylene oxide is developed and approved, there is no choice but to continue its use and adhere to all the regulations and controls associated with its use.

There are (4) problems associated with the use of ETO: worker exposure, environmental effects, disposal of waste and new regulations on chlorofluorocarbons. All of the issues are reason enough to hope for an alternative to ETO sterilization. "THE SOONER THE BETTER"!

One method of sterilization that is being developed by several companies is Vapor-phase Hydrogen Peroxide (VPHP). This method has been patented by two companies to date, Amsco and Surgikos.

VPHP sterilization has many advantages over ETO. Some of these are; reduced processing time, no air exhaust required, low heat input requirements (most items can be processed at room temperature), reduced harmful residues on sterilized products, and no regulations for training or protective equipment. The waste sterilant is easily converted to water and oxygen, thereby eliminating special disposal and handling procedures and the health-related problems associated with ETO waste.

However, all is not perfect with VPHP. VPHP is not able to sterilize high absorptive products such as cellulose and liquids. Liquids should not pose a problem in the hospital setting since these products are now commercially available, and those that are not available can be processed by steam sterilization. The problem with absorptive properties can be avoided by eliminating the use

of muslin in wrapping instruments and supplies. Studies using Tyvek as a possible substitute are currently underway.

Hydrogen peroxide gas (in the concentrations used in this process) does not corrode metals and is compatible with many other devices and materials. Repeated exposure to this process may cause nylon products to become brittle. Commercially available packaging materials such as Tyvek and other synthetic wrap can be penetrated by sterilant.

There are many steps that have to be taken before VPHP sterilization can be implemented by hospitals. Biological and chemical indicators must be developed as well as acceptable synthetic "wrappers".

With all the potential benefits, it would be to everyone's advantage to make the VPHP sterilization process a reality.

By: Carl Winge

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President's Message

The North Carolina Hospital Association recently surveyed eighty hospital CEO's and asked them to describe hospitals of the future. The survey results indicate that 20 hospitals will close by the year 2000 and that one-fourth will only be adequate in financial situations. As CS professionals, we will have to offer quality education to CS technicians, with limited resources in our institutions. The NCAHCSP Board of Directors, considering limited educational budgets, feels that it is time to offer in-depth technical programs at a reasonable cost to our members. In November the Program Planning Committee will preview an upcoming series of technical training workshops to be offered by the Association at our one-day seminars in 1991. We hope that you will plan to attend the complete series.

Remember, education, now, is the key to financial accountability in the year 2000.

By: Virginia Coffey

Newsbits

REVISED OSHA ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES FOR BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS:

OSHA enforcement procedures for occupational exposure to hepatitis B (HBV) and human immunodeficiency (HIV) was effective February 27, 1990. OSHA Instruction CPL 2-2.44B cancels the previous compliance document and will likely remain in effect until final OSHA standards on bloodborne pathogens is issued some time early 1991.

Two important changes:

The disinfectant options for blood / body fluid spill cleanup now include EPA-registered products effective against HIV (Aids) label.

The document requires employers to provide and pay for hepatitis B vaccinations for employees at substantial risk of directly contacting body fluids. If your technicians receive body fluids, contaminated instruments and equipment, you will want to check with your employee health nurse to see where your department is classified.

FDA BECOMING MORE AGGRESSIVE IN ASSESSING MEDICAL GLOVES:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a proposed rule on November 21, 1989 to define acceptable limits on adulteration of patient examination and surgeon's gloves. A methodology has been developed that will be used on all gloves to detect defects that include a visual inspection (for tears, metal fragments, mold, embedded foreign objects, missing or fused components, etc.) and a water-fill test method. The water-fill method involved adding 1,000 milliliters of water to a glove and observing for any leaks to the outside of the glove. The FDA's proposed adulteration levels have been set at 2.5 percent for patient examination gloves. The primary reason for this difference relates to the greater intensity and duration of exposure to blood that occurs for procedures when surgeon's gloves are employed. FDA is providing 30 days for public comment on the proposed rule.

Federal Register 21 CFD Part 800, November 21, 1989

Meet Our Cartoonist!

Terrie Yow, Data-Entry / Inventory Control Clerk in Central Supply at Moses H. Cone Memorial in Greensboro, North Carolina. Versatility describes Terrie very well. She is extremely knowledgeable in the area of the computer operations. Her outside activities reflect her enthusiasm for life. She organized a department volleyball team, softball team, and a bowling team. In her spare time, she shoots a mean game of billiards and has been known to enjoy a cold brew. If she has a few spare minutes, she is apt to be found changing the oil in her car or tuning up a carburetor. We at Cone consider ourselves lucky to have Terrie a part of our TEAM, and NCAHCSP would like to thank her for her contributions to our newsletter.



Welcome! New Members

Georgia Manges, Central Supply
The Brunswick Hospital, Supply, N.C.

Pearly Addison, Tech., Central Service, Carolinas
Medical Center, Charlotte, N.C.

Peter G. Walczak, President, Sterilizer Refurbish-
ing Service, Inc., Erie, PA

Charles Preston, CS Tech., Central Sterile Supply,
Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Cindy Johnson, CS Tech., Central Sterile Supply,
Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Robin Newnam, CS Tech., Central Sterile Supply,
Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Sharon Davis, CS Tech., Central Sterile Supply, Mo-
ses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Terri Yow, Data Entry / Inventory Control Clerk,
Central Sterile Supply
Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Ken Gordon, CS Tech., Central Sterile Supply, Mo-
ses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Shekethia Renea Turner, CS Tech., Central Sterile
Supply, Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Janie J. Crump, CS Tech., Central Sterile Supply,
Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Susan Harden, CS Tech., Central Sterile Supply,
Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C.

Membership Report

The membership Committee reports 242 mem-
bers. New-member applications are being devel-
oped to include more information needed for re-
ports to the American Hospital Association.

Look for these by the first of the year.

By: Linda Messick

NCAHCSP Spotlight

Sylvia Soles

Sylvia has been working in Central Service at
Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, N.C. for 11
years. She began her career in the area of Central
Service as a Medical Assistant program participant
in New Jersey. As a part of the program, she was
asked to "try Central Service for 6 months" which
has turned into more than 11 years. She started
out as a technician and has been Director of Cen-
tral Service for two years.

She was looking for an area in the medical field
where she could help patients without having di-
rect contact with them. Central Service certainly
fits her mold! Her future ambitions are to pro-
gress in the medical ranks in an administrative
position.

Sylvia has been married for 20 years and has three
boys. Her hobbies include sewing, reading and
crafts. She has been a member of the Association
since 1983, and she is enjoying her first term on
the Board.

Congratulations!

To Polly Cates of N.C. Baptist Hospital Central Service
for recognition as June Materials Management EM-
PLOYEE OF THE MONTH. This program has been in
effect for a year and a half. Polly is the fourth recipient
from Central Service. It acknowledges exceptional job
performance, attendance and years of service. Polly
has been an employee of NCBH for 28 years and during
this time has been a most valuable and key employee of
CS. This award is a tribute to Polly, and we are very
pleased and proud she is a member of our team.

Ruth Hodges, CRCST, has received her certification in
Central Supply / Materials Management continuing
education in Nursing and CPR. She is an employee at
Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Lenoir, N.C.

Evelyn Hattey, Supervisor of Central Supply at Craven
County Hospital in New Bern, N.C., received her certifi-
cation (CRCST) from Purdue University.

The North Carolina Association for Hospital Central
Service Personnel would like to express our pride in
the accomplishments of our members.

Fall Seminar

The next one day seminar will be held in Greensboro, N.C. at the Ramada Inn – Airport, on November 2, 1990. The morning session will begin with Mike Davis speaking about “Personal and Managerial Effectiveness”. Mike is employed at Gaston Memorial Hospital as Human Resource Development, Coordinator. Just before lunch, Virginia Coffey will be previewing the “Technician Manual”. After lunch, Susan Johnson, Infection Control Nurse, from Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital, will give us an “Aids Update”. You will be receiving a pre-registration form, soon. We hope you plan to attend.

Region 3 Report

Mary Robinson, our American Society for Healthcare Central Service Personnel representative, has just completed her first year in that role, and is very excited about the annual conference being held in Las Vegas this month. Mary urges all of us to make plans to attend the next annual conference in Bal Harbour, Florida. If you need her assistance, Mary can be contacted at:

Mary C. Robinson, RN
Manager, SPD
Gaston Memorial Hospital
Gastonia, N.C. 28053-1747
(704) 866-2233

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance 5-1-90	\$18,558.19
Deposits	4,392.37
Checks	7,037.63
Balance 7-25-90	\$15,912.94

Report by: Mary Jo Perkins



Health Update

WALKING, the No. 1 exercise for the 90's. Why walk? Because walking will add LIFE TO YOUR YEARS AND YEARS TO YOUR LIFE! Fitness enthusiasts often assume the with exercise, faster is better slower, and running is better than walking. Not necessarily so! Current medical research shows that slow, steady low-intensity exercise is best for your health. Walking, a major step toward wellness. Regular walking:

- ◆ Builds aerobic capacity
- ◆ Breaks down fat deposits
- ◆ Helps prevent osteoporosis
- ◆ Improves endurance
- ◆ Strengthens the heart
- ◆ Promotes weight loss
- ◆ Provides stress relief
- ◆ Lowers blood pressure

O.K. Let's hit the road!

Awards

Virginia Coffey, NCAHCSP President, recently received a letter from the American Society for Healthcare Central Service Personnel and congratulation is in order. Our chapter won (3) awards. North Carolina and New Jersey tied for the Growth Award. North Carolina has achieved first place for the Growth in Common Award. We could not have achieved this without the commitment of our membership. We received a second place for our newsletter “Steamline”. They found it well written, informative and educational. Let's keep the Steamline open. Third place award, AMSCO Chapter education Achievement Award, was presented for efforts to promote professionalism and education by the programs offered within our state. Virginia, will be presented with these awards at the ASHCSP annual meeting.

She would like to express her pride in our NC chapter accomplishments, and to thank the Board members and the membership for their commitment and support.

Let's Continue to:

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Central Service Week

I have written the Governor of North Carolina, requesting that the week of Oct. 7-13, 1990, be proclaimed as "Central Service Week" in North Carolina and Tues. Oct. 9, 1990 as Central Service Day. The NCAHCSP Board of Directors wishes to encourage each Manager / Director of a Central Service Department to treat this week with special emphasis for their staff. There are many ways to recognize the people who operate the Central Service Departments across the state.

Celebrate with these ideas:

- ◆ Plan a party
- ◆ Have open house in your department
- ◆ Display signs noting the dates CS week will be observed.
- ◆ Wear CS week badges
- ◆ Post photos of CS employees on bulletin board
- ◆ Give flowers to CS employees
- ◆ Highlight each employee of the week
- ◆ Display a sign on the door
- ◆ Buy each employee ice cream
- ◆ Draw attention to your dept. and its function
- ◆ After you have made plans, send a note for publication in the newsletter.

Also, don't forget the "Central Service HEART of the Hospital", sweatshirts, a great way to show your employees your appreciation for a job well done. Contact Linda Rudeseal to order, (919) 774-2268.

By: Virginia Coffey

YOU DON'T KNOW ME

by Reny F. Moses

*You don't know me
I work in the basement
of the hospital.
day-in, day-out,
I clean instruments
set-up trays, sterilize
all kinds of medical devices
for surgery.
I deliver medical supplies
and equipment.*

*I work hard to make sure that
doctors and nurses who care for
you have all the supplies and
equipment they need to give you quality care.*

*No you don't know me,
I work hard for you everyday.
Who am I?
I am a Central Service Technician.*

CS Technicians, take

Advantage of planned Educational workshops, scheduled to start next year. Our Association wants to place special emphasis on your continuing education. I'm sure there are lots of technical questions going unanswered. Please let us help you find answers to these questions. Let's talk!

Linda Rudeseal
(919) 774-2268

TECH.
CORNER

Important Reminder

Nomination forms for officers and board members were mailed to you recently. Please fill-in your nominations, and return to the address shown on the form by October 8, 1990.

Steamline

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