Until recently, the Sterilization and Material Center (SMC) worked as an extension of the Surgical Center, since it almost exclusively met this sector. Nowadays, the scenario valorizes and enhances good processing practices in surgical centers in Brazil, through regulatory requirements in force. It is in this context of changes that this work emerges from, which is organized by the nurses Kazuko Uchigawa Graziano, Arlete Silva e Eliane Molina Psaltikidis, who show their objectives at the beginning of each chapter and, at the end, drive the reader to reflect on all that has been read by means of a synthesis.

The publication is organized into 18 chapters, distributed like this:

1. Organization of the Sterilization and Material Center: it describes aspects related to physical infrastructure, as well as human and material resources. It addresses the historical development of the SMC and the current legal recommendations.

2. Conceptual and microbiological aspects related to processing of materials used in health care: it addresses microbiological concepts related to processing, conceptualizing general aspects related to disinfection and sterilization.

3. Reception and cleaning of materials: it deals with the essential steps for a good manual and automated cleaning.

4. Preparation and packaging of materials for sterilization: it highlights important issues to be observed during the preparation of material, such as inspection of cleanliness and of functionality, as well as packaging stowage and selection.

5. Sterilization by physical methods: in this chapter, there is the presentation of the main physical methods of sterilization, besides care actions required for assembly of packages and freight, in order to avoid failures in the sterilization process. It emphasizes the importance of monitoring the physical, chemical and biological parameters.


7. Sterilization by liquid-chemical methods: it addresses the concept, good practices, disadvantages and factors that interfere in the action of liquid chemical sterilants.

8. Disinfection: it describes concepts, methods of disinfection (chemical and physical) and the indications for their use.

9. Control of sterilization and disinfection: it deals with the control and security of disinfection and sterilization, use of chemical and biological indicators in sterilization...
process, as well as the validation and qualification of equipment used in sterilization processes.

10. Expiry date of sterilization related to events (event-related): this chapter presents relevant points related to storage, transportation, handling of sterile products and event-related maintenance of sterility of materials.

11. The controversy of the reuse of single-use materials and legislation in force: it addresses the current political scenario of reuse of materials in Brazil and worldwide, besides legislations and validation of security in the reuse of single-use stuffs.

12. Instrumental control in the Sterilization and Material Center: it describes the main types of identification of surgical equipment, in addition to materials management, instrumental control in the SMC and the process of selection, purchase and consignment of materials.

13. Quality indicators from the Sterilization and Material Center: it presents proposal of indicators for assessing processes and outcomes, emphasizing their importance and use to measure compliance and quality in health care.

14. The health of the nursing worker in the Sterilization and Material Center: this chapter describes the working process within the SMC, risks and burdens to the worker. It points the SMC nurse as the professional able to understand, analyze and implement actions for the organization and sustainability of the sector.

15. Interrelationship with consumer and supplier units, which support the Sterilization and Material Center: it describes the importance of the SMC in the hospital context and strategies of relationship between supplier and consumer units.

16. Application of cost accounting in the Sterilization and Material Center: the high cost of health care is a factor of concern, whether for the hospital administration, payers or health professionals. This chapter approaches the importance of cost management within a SMC. Furthermore, it presents concepts of cost accounting and its application in the SMC.

17. The Sterilization and Material Center and the infection prevention and control: it describes the role of the SMC as extremely relevant in preventing infections related to health care, especially in relation to surgical patients, since the larger demand is the processing of surgical materials. The safety of the surgical patient is currently a problem and a concern across the world, thereby affecting developed and developing countries.

18. Contracting outsourced services in health: the eighteenth chapter presents the reasons, importance and role of the nursing professional in the process of outsourcing of health services, besides the impact of outsourcing for workers.

The work is composed of national and international references of great impact to the scope of the SMC. It has simple and enlightening parlance, because each chapter presents a scheme consisting of: point to be seized, keywords and structure of topics, in addition to some case studies.

It is really a work of great relevance, both for professionals working in SMC and for those who do not work in such environment, but are willing to enhance their skills.

REFERENCE