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# THE CRITERION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CBSPD



**Summer 2021**

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# A Message From The President

It's hard to believe we are mid-way through 2021 already. This has been a remarkably busy year for the CBSPD, filled with a lot of changes. No matter the changes, the CBSPD is still committed to providing quality exams for sterile processing and endoscope reprocessing personnel. Sterile processing personnel play a vital role in the medical profession and the CBSPD values each and every one of the individuals performing these duties every day! Let's face it, without your support the CBSPD would not exist. On behalf of the CBSPD, we would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the years and look forward to serving you in the years to come.

The CBSPD would like to thank Nancy Chobin, Sue McManus, and the late Teckla Ann Maresca (Tam) for all the work they have done to further the CBSPD's mission. While they may no longer be serving as board of trustee members, they have left an everlasting mark on the CBSPD and the sterile processing profession. We will miss all of you deeply.

I'd like to extend big thank you to the other members of the board of trustees:

Nyla 'Skee' Japp (Vice President), Gail Law (Treasurer), Jeanette Bakker (Secretary), Amber Moore (BOT Member), Livia Senties (International Liaison), and Jeannie Walch (BOT Member) for stepping up to do whatever is needed and being willing to commit their time and expertise to CBSPD. I look forward to working with each one of you as the year continues.

And to the Certificant Board for their service to the sterile processing profession: Technician Rep: Jenna Eckert, CSPDT, Ambulatory Surgery Rep: Leyla Ganchi, CASSPT, GI Scope Rep: Lorraine Thornton, CFER, CSPDS, Surgical Instrument Specialist Rep: Makeba Spigner, CSPDT, CSIS, Management Rep: Kathy German, CSPDT, CSPM, and the Public Member: Horacio Cortina. Your representation is invaluable.

Last, but certainly not the least, the office staff; they work very hard every day to take care of the needs of the certification program. They are manning the phones, answering emails, registering candidates for exams, sending out correspondences to certificants, providing support for the Board of Trustees and Certificant Board, and processing recertification packets (just to name a few of the many things they do). They are very dedicated employees and are genuinely appreciated for all the things they do to help make the CBSPD certification program a success.

As you can see, it takes everyone working together with a common goal to promote and encourage credible credentialing programs for sterile processing personnel, thereby promoting patient safety.

Sincerely,  
Angela Jensen, CSPDS, CFER  
President, CBSPD Board of Trustees



After the July 2021 exam administration, the CBSPD will no longer offer the CSIS (Certified Surgical Instrument Specialist) exam. This certification will need to be maintained through CEUs instead of retaking the exam. You will also see a change in the technician exam for the November 2021 exam administration, the newly developed exam will have 125 questions plus 25 pretest questions (additional time will be allowed for this exam). This change is to incorporate 25 additional instrument related questions into the technician exam. The changes will also enhance the Technician certification.

Speaking of exams, to streamline and maintain the security of our exams, we have contracted with PSI Services Inc. (our current test administration partner) for all exam development and administration functions. This is a big change, but we believe it is also a good change.

If you are currently serving on the exam committee, you will be working with the experienced team at PSI to perform the necessary duties of the exam committee.

If you currently hold a CBSPD credential and would like to join the exam committee, please complete the online form at: [https:// www.cbspd.net/exam-development-committee/](https://www.cbspd.net/exam-development-committee/) to learn more. You will also earn CEUs towards recertification while you participate.

Remember, it takes your knowledge and expertise to create quality exams!

Thank you!  
CBSPD Exam Committee



## **CEU'S ARE JUST FOR CERTIFICATION RENEWAL, RIGHT?**

What are CEUs? "Continuing Education Units" are assigned points, "units" gained to apply towards a specific certification achieved. The units assigned are based on 60 min of material designated by the decimal point system where 60 min = 1 unit, 30 min = .5 etc. But CEU's are more than just points gained. As the acronym states it is continuing education and if you are a certified sterile processing technician you know that every day is something new and something new means there is an opportunity to learn. This is where CEU's come in and are applied. CEU's offered not only gives the learner points but it indicates that the individual has been educated in the subject matter at hand.

Where do CEUs come from? Well, in days of past CEU's were hard to come by and most were acquired through a fee that technicians had to pay..... enter post pandemic, where CEU's are offered at every click of a keypad or turn of a page. From podcasts, articles, virtual conferences, apps, and many, many more, CEU's are available free of charge to all those interested and thirsting for more knowledge. They say knowledge is power well, then this is a powerful resource for all techs wanting that knowledge. The information and education offered comes from manufactures, vendors, entrepreneurs, SME, regulatory agencies and certifying bodies to name a few. Up to date information about what we do and why we do it are offered in forms of CEUs, but this information must be approved for CEU credits.

How are CEUs approved? Plain and simple, the content is reviewed by a committee panel and measured against a standard and exam content. If the material offered meets the standards, then a contact unit is assigned as well as an approval code. With all the different educational material available and more and more new technology arising it is imperative that information is delivered correctly and if it is delivered why not in the form of a Continuing Education Unit?



So why are CEUs important? Well, the obvious is that it is required by certifying bodies that a specific amount of contact hours or unit points must be gained on a set basis to maintain certification. For example, a CSPDT must gain 100 contact hours within a 5yr period to maintain their status as a certified technician. Now this can be achieved in several ways but CEU's are the common method of gaining those 100 hours. It also adds to our growth.

Again, sterile processing is an ever-changing field. With new instruments, new equipment, new roles, and new processes CEU's play a major part in helping us better comprehend what is going on around us. Another way it helps us grow is that CEU's help us become subject matter experts. As we absorb and delve into CEU's we gain new knowledge that is applicable to what we do every day. That applicable knowledge stays with us, and as new opportunities arise so does the chance to share that knowledge.

So where can I get CEUs? As mentioned above, literally every click of a keypad will direct you to CEUs, just type it in on any search bar and you will be immediately directed to dozens of sites. But here is a short list of great places to get free CEU's: Beyond Clean Podcast, Pfielder Education, Steris University, Key Surgical, One Tray Education, Censis Technology, 3M and the list goes on and on.

In conclusion, CEUs along with certification as a sterile processing technician is a win win combination that is and will continue to be part of our growth as professionals. It is our duty to acquire greater knowledge and honestly an unavoidable task, so why not benefit from them? More information can be found online and on the certifying bodies' website pertaining to where and how many CEUs are required. Remember, "You don't know what you don't know, so why not use CEUs so you will know."

Jessie Lopez, T-SC, CSPDT, CSIS, CFER, CAASPT, GST, CRCST, CIS, CER, CHL, CER  
CBSPD CEU Committee



You can easily submit your in-service/program for approval with our CEU Committee. Just visit our website at <https://www.cbspd.net/cbspd-application-for-ceu-approval/> to fill out the online CEU application within 6 weeks of the date of the program.

All CEUs submitted for recertification must have a CEU Approval Code.

You can also find CEU's under the CEU tab and Inservice Resources

# EXAM DATES



OUR FINAL EXAM FOR 2021 WILL BE NOVEMBER 1ST-6TH. APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY OCTOBER 26TH. REMEMBER TO GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN EARLY TO MAKE SCHEDULING EASIER.

## FAQ: IS THERE AN EXAM SITE NEAR ME?

THERE ARE NORMALLY SEVERAL LOCATIONS OFFERED IN EVERY STATE. TESTING LOCATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.CBSPD.NET/DATES-TEST-SITES/](https://www.cbspd.net/dates-test-sites/) ENTER YOUR STATE AND FIND THE NEAREST LOCATION TO YOU.

## RECERTIFICATION

- DUE TO THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CERTIFIED AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO NEED TO RECERTIFY, WE WILL NO LONGER BE MAILING OUT PACKETS.
- WE HAVE MADE OUR RECERTIFICATION PACKETS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND YOU CAN ACCESS A RECERTIFICATION PACKET AT ANY TIME DURING YOUR RECERTIFICATION YEAR.
- YOU MAY SEND YOUR COMPLETED DOCUMENTS IN 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR EXPIRATION DATE, BUT WE DO ASK THAT THEY BE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS PRIOR.
- WE ARE STILL OFFERING EXPEDITED REVIEW, BUT THE RULE HAS CHANGED. YOU MAY ONLY REQUEST THIS SERVICE IN THE MONTH OF YOUR EXPIRATION.
- THIS IS TO BE FAIR TO ANYONE RECERTIFYING IN THE MONTHS BEFORE YOU.



REMEMBER, IT IS YOUR CERTIFICATION AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING IT.

## REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS IN THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD OF HEALTHCARE

By: Lorraine Thornton, CFER, CSPDS

Sterile processing departments will always be accountable for compliance with the regulations, standards, and best practice guidelines in the ever-changing world of healthcare. Regulations and standards can be dictated from either the federal or local government level. You might ask why does SPD need regulations and standards? Regulation and standards were created to help set benchmark for quality and safety to help the department run more efficient. A regulation is a requirement issued by administrative agencies that have the force of law. Standards are a uniformed method of defining basic parameters for processes, products, services, and measurements.

### Types of Standards:

**Regulatory:** A comparison benchmark that is mandated by a governing agency and if not complied with, may cause a facility to be in violation and liable for a legal penalty.

**Voluntary:** A comparison benchmark that is strongly recommended by a governing agency or professional organization that provides recommendations and guidelines to provide better patient care.

**Best Practice:** is a method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved by other means.

These regulations, standards and best practice guidelines provide Sterile Processing departments with the requirements and guidance needed to provide healthcare providers with a safe ready to use product.

### Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The FDA is the federal agency that is responsible for not only food and drugs but medical devices to ensure they are safe and effective for public use. FDA regulates liquid chemical sterilants and high-level disinfectants that are used for critical and semi-critical medical devices. The FDA also provides manufacturers with a 510K clearance which means that the device can be marketed as safe and effective. The FDA also requires the manufacturer to provide instruction for use (IFU) for their product.

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC is a component of the department of human services. It's guidelines for disinfection and sterilization in healthcare facilities are evidence-based recommendation.

### Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

OSHA regulations and standards are designed to protect the employee from occupational hazards that might result into injuries or illness. The Occupational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogen Standards is a guideline that out- lines employees' safety in all work areas as it relates blood borne pathogens.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The EPA is a regulatory agency which is responsible for minimizing toxic emission and regulates disinfectants. The disinfectants that are used on environmental surfaces, and not those used for critical and semi-critical medical devices. The state EPA regulates biohazardous waste and chemicals poured in the main sewer line. EPA plays a role in ethylene Oxide Sterilization due to the "Clean Air Act". The clean air act ensures that facilities that are using ETO is protecting the public from risk due to emission.

**The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)**

AAMI standards are a comprehensive guide that addresses steam; low temperature chemical sterilization; High-level disinfection; packaging, equipment testing, quality control; and sterility assurance in healthcare facilities. These standards are aimed to provide the sterile processing personnel with best practice guidance and the rationale on why.

**Association Operating Room Nurses (AORN)**

AORN guideline for perioperative practices currently has several sections devoted to sterilization and high-level disinfection. These guidelines are evidence-based standards and recommended practices.

**Society of Gastroenterology Nurse Association (SGNA)**

SGNA collects information and creates standards and guidelines relating to flexible endoscope reprocessing. SGNA is to serve as a community that advocates, enhances, and improves the GI nursing and associate practice.

There are many other federal regulatory agencies and professional associations that have influences over SPD practices. Sterile processing employees should follow regulatory guidance and standards set by agencies and professional organizations such as the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation and implement some key best practices.

Remember, SPD plays a vital role in the fight against hospitals' infection prevention efforts. SPD might be invisible, but the department is an invaluable asset to the healthcare facility.



## **Inservice Quiz**

- 1. The FDA regulates the use of high-level disinfection?**  
**A. True      B. False**
  
- 2. Best Practices guidelines is following manufacturer's instructions for use.**  
**A. True      B. False**
  
- 3. AAMI Standards provide guidance on sterilization (steam and low temperature).**  
**A. True      B. False**
  
- 4. Which professional association offers guidance and best practice for flexible endoscope?**  
**A. SGNA**  
**B. AAMI**  
**C. AORN**  
**D. All the above**
  
- 5. Disposal of high-level disinfection solution are regulated by which agency?**  
**A. FDA**  
**B. EPA**  
**C. CDC**
  
- 6. The CDC and AORN are driven by evidence-base recommendations.**  
**A. True      B. False**
  
- 7. A standard is a document, established by consensus that provides rules, guidelines, or characteristics for activities to achieve optimal results.**  
**A. True      B. False**
  
- 8. A regulation is a mandatory law or rule issued by a governing body.**  
**A. True      B. False**
  
- 9. The key to complying with occupational safety and health guidance is to**  
**A. Follow label instructions on all disinfectants**  
**B. Use PPE appropriately**  
**C. Both A and B**
  
- 10. Regulations under the Clean Air Act are administered by**  
**A. OSHA**  
**B. FDA**  
**C. EPA**

If you're interested in the latest news in SPD and GI/Endo, announcements from the Board of Trustees & Certificant Board, please follow or like us on social media!



<https://www.facebook.com/theCBSPD>



@theCBSPD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**IAHCSMM 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO**  
**OCTOBER 9 – 11, 2021 AND OCTOBER 12 – 14, 2021**  
**( IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS)**

**AORN GLOBAL SURGICAL CONFERENCE & EXPO – NEW ORLEANS**  
**MARCH 19, 2022 – MARCH 23, 2022**

**SGNA ANNUAL COURSE 2022 / MAY 22-24, 2022**