

THE POLICIES & PROCEDURES THAT
MAKE CENTRALIZATION SUCCESSFUL

Surgical Instrument Centralization Expert

FIRST CASE



Bryan Stuart | National Director
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First Case Surgical Instrument Centralization Expert™:

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Although the reprocessing cycle and much of the activities involved in centralizing a process are similar to what you may have in place, specific policies and procedures should be tailored to the centralization process.

For example, many hospitals find they need more experience organizing the logistics of transporting soiled or sterile trays outside controlled areas. To mitigate this challenge, an addendum could be added to existing policies and procedures to ensure the safety of both personnel and patients during transport.

Similarly, if you are consolidating activities such as sterilization, decontamination, or inspection, your existing policies and procedures will likely need to be adjusted to reflect these changes. This may include training for employees, equipment upgrades, or even policies requiring special documentation for instruments and supplies.

Other policy and procedure changes can lead to a more efficient workplace with less employee stress. Because centralization can enable larger volumes of reprocessed devices to be handled more quickly, you may also want to ensure quality control procedures are in place and consistent throughout the new process.

For example, small to midsize departments usually have employees assigned multiple daily or weekly tasks. In a centralized setting, staff may no longer be available to unload, scan, or stage washed sets for assembly due to the increased volume. This job will most likely be something new that requires a change or creation of responsibilities and expectations in policy and procedure.

Overall, consider taking the time to invest in the necessary changes to reap the potential benefits of centralization. Policy and procedure changes can evolve as the reprocessing environment continues to grow and adapt. By establishing new policies and procedures for centralization, you can help ensure that your organization is prepared for a successful future.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Bryan at bryan.stuart@aesculapusa.com

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Bryan Stuart, CCSVP, has over 30 years of experience in the medical field and 13 years of operational experience in an FDA regulated environment as a third party processor of surgical linens and instrumentation. From this, Bryan has developed keen insights into commercially managed reprocessing facilities. Bryan has also provided third party management of SPDs. He has extensive experience in hospital supply chain management and delivery of durable goods, custom procedure trays (CPT) and surgical supply single-pull products ranging from bulk, Just In Time (JIT), and off-site prepared Case Carts. For the last 8 years, Bryan has provided consulting services to hospitals to improve processes and instrument tray streamlining. His solutions are driven by hands-on set reviews and data driven solutions bringing the clinical and processing teams together for a mutually beneficial rationalization of instrument trays and process improvements.

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