

# Sterilization & Cleaning (Instruments/Reusable Goods)

## Reduces the risk of Surgical Site Infections - (SSIs)

- **Cleaning** - removes microorganisms
- **Decontamination** - renders microorganisms non-infectious
- **Sterilization** - kills microorganisms & spores

## Cleaning, decontamination & sterilization performed sequentially

- Sterilization process uses saturated steam under pressure
- Heat & moisture-stable items/cooled to room temp
- Bowie Dick tests used daily

## Follow manufacturer's IFU (instructions for use)

- Know terminology/Supervise point-of-use cleaning

**Spaulding Classification:** Determines the level of sterilization required-  
(based upon the patient tissue that the device will contact during use)

- **Critical Instruments-**
  - Device contacts sterile tissue or blood stream
    - (Require sterilization)
    - Surgical Instruments
- **Semi-Critical Instruments-**
  - Device contacts mucous membrane/non in-tact skin
    - (Require high-level disinfection)
    - Vaginal speculum/anesthesia equip/flex. endoscopes
- **Non-Critical Instruments-**
  - Device will contact in-tact skin
    - (Require intermediate or low-level disinfection)
    - Ultrasound probes/BP cuffs/environment surfaces