

Assessing the need for a Steriliser



It is important to assess the need for your practice to have a steriliser. The following is an excerpt from the RACGP Infection Control Standards for office based practices.

"Practices must assess their requirements for sterile equipment (e.g. types of items to be sterilised, number required, turnaround time). This assessment will determine the need and type of steriliser required. The following points may assist:

- What types of sterile instruments and equipment are required?
- How often are they required?
- Comparative costs of on-site sterilisation:
 - initial purchase price
 - installation
 - training of staff
 - consumables (e.g. printer paper and ink cartridges, packaging, distilled water, spore tests for validation, and Bowie Dick tests for Class B cycles)
 - staff time for performing and recording leak rate tests and Bowie Dick tests
 - staff time for reprocessing equipment
 - ongoing maintenance
 - validation costs
- Comparative costs of off-site sterilisation:
 - cost of extra set if instruments
 - sterilisation charges
- Use of single use disposable
 - cost of instrument sets
 - availability of appropriate sets."

For more information on sterilisation and infection control or for an Accreditation introductory visit contact WentWest on (02) 8811 7100 or email support@wentwest.com