

Office of Health Care Facilities Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Central Service Technicians

Q: What is a central service technician?

A: A central services technician is a person who performs five essential functions within a health care institution:

1. Decontamination;
2. Inspection;
3. Assembly;
4. Packaging; and
5. Sterilization of reusable medical instruments or devices within, inspects, assembles, packages, and sterilizes reusable medical instruments or devices.

Q: How may health care institutions employ a central service technician?

A.: A central service technician may be employed by a healthcare institution or provide services via contract with a healthcare institution.

Q: Are central service technicians required to be licensed?

A: A central service technician is not a license. A central service technician is a credential administered by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management or the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc. The rules for Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Centers require that a central service technician be employed by a licensed healthcare facility.

Q: How long does an individual have to obtain their central service technician credential?

A. No later than two (2) years after the person's date of hire or contracting for services with a healthcare institution.

Q: What is a licensed healthcare facility?

A: For the purposes of these rules, licensed healthcare facilities include hospitals and ambulatory surgical treatment centers.

Q: Are outpatient surgical centers required to have a central service technician?

A. It depends. If the outpatient surgical center utilizes the hospital's provider number, a central service technician will be required. However, the central service technician does not have to be on site. The outpatient clinic can ship their instruments to the hospital for cleaning by the central services department.

Q: How many continuing education hours must a central service technician have annually?

A. A central service technician must complete ten (10) hours of continuing education within a calendar year. Continuing education shall be maintained in the employees personnel file. The areas of continuing education must be in areas related to the functions of a central service technician.

Q: What if I employ a person to solely inspect the instruments in my ambulatory surgical center. Will such person be required to obtain continuing education?

A. No. In order to be qualified as a central service technician, the employee must perform five (5) core functions, which include decontamination, inspection, assembly, packaging, and sterilization of reusable medical instruments or devices within a healthcare institution.

Q: Do continuing education hours for central service technicians follow the individual or the facility?

A.: Continuing education hours are tied to an individual's certification. As such, continuing education hours follow the individual.

Q.: Are third party vendors required to have a central service technician?

A. No. Only licensed healthcare institutions are required to employ a central service technicians.