

Open Day Activity of the International Day of Sterilisation Sciences on April 10 in Shehong Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital—Explore Quality Management Method of Loaner Instruments and Build a Solid Defense line of Infection Prevention and Control

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On this beautiful April day, we celebrated the 9th International Day of Sterilisation Sciences. In response to the call of this day, the CSSD of Shehong Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital seized the opportunity to help clinical and functional departments and the CSSD to understand each other, fostering face-to-face communication regarding the challenges and bottlenecks in managing loaner medical instruments, and exploring optimal management pathways to collectively build a solid safety defense of medical infection control.

The meeting, themed “Explore Quality Management Method of Loaner Instruments and Build a Solid Defense line of Infection Prevention and Control,” was meticulously prepared in advance. On April 8, 2025, over 40 representatives from functional departments, clinical departments, loaner instruments suppliers, and medical alliance representatives gathered in the conference room on the 12th floor of the hospital's Zhongjing Building. The meeting was presided over by Vice Dean Yan Gaowu.



At the beginning, He Yonghong, head of the CSSD, introduced the complex structures, diverse types, and ever-evolving nature of loaner instruments. She then discussed industry standards and operational guidelines for their management, while also presenting effective improvement strategies based on hospital's current status and challenges related to loaner instruments.



Next, Wang Rongfen, head of the infection control department, emphasized that the CSSD serves as a crucial frontline for infection prevention. She said that the CSSD operates behind the scenes, representing a different battlefield compared to clinical departments. Each set of loaner instruments must undergo a meticulous ten-step process, taking approximately three hours before they can be safely utilized. She analyzed the issues identified during recent supervisory reviews of loaner instruments, pinpointing root causes and suggesting specific measures for improvement.



Subsequently, Orthopedic Department heads Luo Liang and Han Dan expressed that we should address these issues with targeted solutions in accordance with industry standards, while

also recognizing the challenges faced by clinical teams. They emphasized the importance of collaboration to ensure the smooth operation of surgical procedures.



Following this, Head Nurse He Xiaoxia, representing the operating room, stated that personnel from loaner instrument suppliers must adhere to established pathways for personnel and logistics, ensuring that used instruments are promptly sent to the CSSD for reprocessing. She also highlighted the need for enhanced supervision and suggested upgrades to the traceability system for improved operational convenience.



Representatives from loaner instrument suppliers and medical alliances expressed that they will actively cooperate with the hospital and be committed to promptly addressing any existing issues.





Finally, Vice Dean Fan Yunqiang emphasized that what behind the instrument is life and loaner instrument is like the third hand for doctors. He called for all departments to fortify the infection control defenses, ensuring the safety of instrument usage and satisfying the needs of surgical procedures. He stated that each department must fulfill its responsibilities, standardizing the closed-loop management process for loaner instruments, seamlessly integrating with the information system, and achieving dual closed-loop management both within and outside the hospital.



Through this activity of the International Day of Sterilisation Sciences themed “Explore Quality Management Method of Loaner Instruments and Build a Solid Defense line of Infection Prevention and Control”, the CSSD and infection control department aim to enhance interdepartmental communication and collaboration, clarify individual responsibilities, continuously improve professional knowledge, adhere to standards and guidelines, and ensure the safety of surgeries for patients.

Introduction to Shehong Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital

Shehong Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital is a modern, comprehensive hospital distinguished by its full range of services, prominent features of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), advanced medical equipment, and significant clinical efficacy. It is recognized as a national Grade 3, Class A TCM hospital, a national comprehensive stroke prevention and treatment center, and a national chest pain center. Annually, the hospital accommodates over 711,000 outpatient visits, admits approximately 37,900 inpatients, and performs around 14,300 various major and medium-sized surgeries.

Built in 1958, the hospital spans an area of 40 acres and consists of two campuses located in the southern and eastern parts of the city. The hospital currently employs 946 staff members, including 847 professional technical personnel, among whom 148 are senior technical staff (with 48 have senior professional title). The facility offers 900 open beds and comprises 18 first-level clinical departments, one outpatient department, and one community health service center, along with 10 first-level medical technology departments. Additionally, the hospital has one National Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine Inheritance Studio, one National Famous and Senior TCM Expert Inheritance Studio, two National Grassroots Famous and Senior TCM Expert Inheritance Studios, and one Provincial Famous TCM Inheritance Studio. Meanwhile, the hospital has two national TCM specialty construction projects, four provincial key TCM specialties, nine municipal key TCM specialties, and one municipal key medical specialty.

The hospital adheres to the philosophy of “Prioritizing TCM, Highlighting TCM Features, and Balancing Chinese and Western Medicine,” making significant contributions to the development of healthcare in Shehong City and ensuring the physical well-being of its residents.

Introduction to the Regional CSSD of Shehong Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital

The Regional CSSD of Shehong Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital is tasked with the cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, and supply of all reusable instruments and items within the hospital and surrounding medical facilities, serving as a vital department in the hospital's infection control.

The CSSD covers an area of 906 square meters, its architectural layout and processes adhere to hospital infection management principles, and it features a scientifically rational three-zone layout. The CSSD is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment that comply with the 2016 version of the industry's standards for hospital CSSD (WS310.1-310.3), that is the principles of “Two Regulations and One Standard.” The CSSD owns a highly specialized team with substantial technical expertise. It has implemented a quality traceability information management system and a centralized sterilization supply management model, integrating CSSD operations into the hospital's medical quality management system. Upholding the principles of “Professionalism, Defense, Service, and Support,” we provide safe and reliable surgical instruments to clinical departments, effectively preventing infection control incidents and safeguarding patient safety.