

## The Affiliated Stomatological Hospital of Anhui Medical University: "A Sterile Future Begins with Me" CSSD Open Day Event

The World Federation for Hospital Sterilisation Sciences (WFHSS) sets up the International Day of Sterilisation Sciences on April 10. This initiative calls for global CSSDs to open their doors during this period, inviting everyone to explore the sterile supply center and learn about the reprocessing of instruments, as well as the science behind cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization. This aim is to promote communication and work together to ensure medical safety.

In response to the call and coinciding with the opening of the new CSSD at the Affiliated Stomatological Hospital of Anhui Medical University, an invitation was extended to relevant departments and offices to participate in an "A Sterile Future Begins with Me" themed CSSD open day event. This event provided an opportunity to explore the mysterious CSSD and witness the "regeneration" journey of medical instruments.



The event invited over ten leaders and colleagues, including Vice President Cao Ying, the Director of the Nursing Department Yu Hong, the Director of the Infection Control Department Yu Rui, the Director of the Medical Affairs Department Shao Jian, the Director of the Public Relations Department Geng Siya, the Director of the Restoration Department Zhang Weibao, the Director of the Maxillofacial Surgery Department Wang Qingbiao, and head nurses from surgical and clinical departments, to attend, building communication and collaboration bridge for the quality of sterile supply.

The day began with a simple sign-in process.



Zhang Cuiyu, head nurse of the Central Sterile Supply Department, warmly welcomed the visiting leaders and colleagues, providing a brief introduction to the work processes, departmental culture, and event schedule. Following this, Vice President Cao Ying and Nursing Director Yu Hong delivered opening speeches.





The visiting tour of working areas in the CSSD follows a sequence from clean areas to dirty areas. Led by head nurses and department guides Liu Yuexia, Wu Lingli, and Wang Hanyue, participants visited three major working areas, witnessing how the instruments underwent a perfect “purification” through ten essential processes.

### Inspection, Packaging and Sterilization Area



Instruments that have been cleaned and disinfected must undergo a double-check by staff, with each instrument inspected individually. Delicate dental instruments, like dental handpieces, also require lubrication through a lubrication machine for smooth operation. Instruments that fail to meet cleaning quality standards are returned to the dirty area for re-cleaning until they pass inspection and can enter the inspection, packaging, and sterilization area. There, suitable "clothes" (packaging materials) are chosen for them, along with their "companions" (sterile monitoring indicators), as they prepare to enter the sterilizer for sterilization.

### Sterile Storage Area



The Sterile packs with passed physical, chemical and biological monitoring results are delivered to various clinical departments to complete their missions.

### Decontamination Area



The staff in this area showed the collecting, classifying, disassembling, cleaning and disinfecting of used instruments in this area, as well as the principles and operation of washer-disinfectors. With a series of professional and rigorous cleaning and disinfection procedures, the instruments enter the inspection, packaging, and sterilization area.

### **Conclusion**

The CSSD serves as the "invisible battlefield" of hospital infection control, playing a vital role within the entire medical system. It is responsible for the cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, and supply of medical instruments throughout the hospital, forming a crucial line of defense for ensuring medical safety.

A qualified sterile package requires meticulous processing through numerous steps, as well as collaboration and understanding among various departments, all working together to prevent hospital infections and safeguard patient safety.