Medical Device Reprocessing Technician

This profession is also known as:
- Instrument Sterilizer - medical

What is a medical device reprocessing technician?
Medical device reprocessing technicians gather, disassemble, clean, disinfect, assemble, package, sterilize, store and distribute surgical instruments, supplies and equipment for re-use in a health care facility.

What are the main duties of a medical device reprocessing technician?
- Sterile processing technicians operate and maintain sterilization equipment such as instrument washers, sonic sinks, cart washers and steam autoclaves to clean and disinfect trays, carts, linens, supplies, instrumentation and equipment for re-use according to standardized safety practices.
- They reassemble equipment and assemble packs of sterile supplies and instruments for delivery to hospital departments.

What personal characteristics or desired traits should I have for this work?
- Energetic and in good physical condition.
- Responsible, reliable.
- Work well as part of a team.

Where do medical device reprocessing technicians work?
They are employed in hospitals, surgical centres and other health care settings.

What typical work conditions should I expect?
As a Medical reprocessing technician you will:
- Work in a noisy, busy and stressful healthcare setting.
- Use chemicals and/or extreme heat to disinfect instruments, many of which are sharp.
- Use safety precautions to reduce risk to yourself from exposure to burns and infectious diseases.
- Handle heavy loads routinely.
- Spend most hours on your feet.
- Work 8-12 hours a shift which includes nights, weekends and holidays.

Hospital central supply and sterile processing departments may operate 24 hours a day.
What qualifications do I need?

You:

• have completed a 6-9 month related training program.
• have received certification in medical device reprocessing.
• have a high school diploma (or equivalent).

What communication skills do I need?

• good English language skills
• knowledge of basic medical terminology
• strong computer skills
• able to follow directions
• good interpersonal skills
• able to maintain confidentiality

For a full listing of the essential skills you may require, see http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_search-eng.do?titleKeyword=instrument+sterilizer&source=2&modify=Go%21

What wage can I expect for this work?

Canadian average  Low  12.00  Median 17.50  High 26.06

Career Outlook

Are there opportunities for advancement?

There are limited opportunities in this field of work.

Learn more about this profession by visiting these sites:

• National Occupation Code 3414
  The government of Canada has given a code to each occupation/profession. Use this code to learn more about medical device reprocessing technicians/sterile

References

• National Occupational Classification, 2011 (NOC 3414) 13/4/16
• Workopolis
  www.workopolis.com
• Albert Learning Information Service
  https://occinfo.alis.alberta.ca/occinfopreview/info/browse-occupations/occupation-profile.html?id=71011099
Government of Canada, Job Bank
http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search_results.do?searchstring=sterile+processing+technician&action=Search