

Massachusetts Legislation to Regulate Central Service Technicians, S.1886

Who is a Central Service Technician?

- Central service technicians are responsible for ensuring that equipment and instruments used during surgical procedures are properly disassembled, cleaned, inspected, sterilized, and reassembled prior to patient use.

What is the Process to Become a Certified Central Service Technician?

- Formal educational programs are not required in order to be eligible to take a certification exam; however, there are many programs available.
 - Purdue University online - <https://www.distance.purdue.edu/training/cssp/>
 - Self study through IAHCSMM or Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD)
 - Community Colleges – NSCC, Bunker Hill, MassBay, Bristol
- There are two different exams that a person may take to become certified.
 - Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) exam
 - This exam is undergoing the accreditation process by the American National Standards Institute.
 - Central Supply Processing Department Technician (CSPDT) exam
 - This exam is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

Why Regulate Now?

- Central service technicians perform tasks that are integral to the safety of the patient, yet their profession is unregulated. A person could be hired off the street to sterilize surgical instruments and then those instruments are used on patients.
- Central service technicians are responsible for first-line processes to prevent surgical site infections. Improperly sterilized instruments used in surgical procedures can introduce bacteria into a patient that sets up the risk for infection.
 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in its Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections cited that surgical site infections result in an estimated 13,088 deaths per year and cost hospitals approximately \$25,546 per infection.¹
 - In 2007, HAIs in Massachusetts cost from \$200 to \$400 million.²
- The Joint Commission reports that 36% of accredited hospitals surveyed in 2011 were noncompliant with its standards to reduce the risk of infection associated with medical equipment, devices and supplies.³
- Risk equals cost to hospitals. Medical errors add huge costs to healthcare facilities, and many patients that die each year die from surgical site infections. It is critical to the safety of these patients that every member of the surgical team has the proper education, skills, and knowledge to function safely.

What is Being Proposed?

- Central service technicians must pass a nationally accredited exam and maintain 10 continuing education credits annually.
- The grandfathering clause grandfathered in technicians that had been working as a central service technician prior to December 31, 2014.
- For those that are not grandfathered in, they will have 18 months from the date of hire to get certified.
- Oversight is through the normal process of hospital license review – no change, minimal effort required by hospitals.

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¹ Stone PW, Braccia D, Larson E. Systematic Review of Economic Analysis of Health Care-Associated Infections. *American Journal of Infection Control* 2005; 33:501-509; Roberts RR, Scott RD, Cordell R, Solomon SL, Steele L, Kempe LM, Trick WE, Weinstein RA. The Use of Economic Modeling to Determine the Hospital Costs Associated with Nosocomial Infections. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2003; 36:1424-1432.

² <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/quality/healthcare/hai/hai-report-2009-2011.pdf>

³ Pyrek, Kelly. Improper Reprocessing Targeted As One of Healthcare's Most Dangerous Hazards. *Infection Control Today*; Vol. 17, No. 5, May 2013.