

# **Types Of Sterilization Jobs In The Healthcare Sector In The US**



A crucial component of healthcare is sterilization, which is the process of getting rid of germs, microbes or any harmful component from a surface or object. It guarantees patient and healthcare worker safety and stops the spread of illnesses. There are different types of sterilization jobs in the US that come in a variety of forms in the US healthcare industry, each with specific duties and responsibilities.

## **Types Of Sterilization Jobs In The US**

Sterilization is an important part of the healthcare sector and if you are an aspiring sterilization technician who has a passion for cleaning and maintaining, healthcare sterilization is a promising field for you.

Apart from getting a satisfactory feeling of saving lives and doing something productive, a sterilization technician gets a good salary in the US. According to Indeed, in the US, a sterile processing technician makes, on average, \$71,031 annually.



Now you might be wondering what are the job roles in this field. Is it only about sterile processing technicians or are there other options in the same field? So yes, there are different types of sterilization jobs available in the US healthcare sector. A technician can choose according to their skills, interest and proficiency. Among the most popular options are:

### **1. Sterile Processing Technician (SPT)**

A sterile processing technician is like a foundation in medical facilities. They are in charge of processing and sanitizing medical equipment and tools. Among their responsibilities are:



- Decontamination: It is the process of cleaning and disinfecting tools to get rid of pollutants and organic matter.
- Assembly: Putting together instruments in accordance with predetermined protocols in order to prepare them for sterilization.
- Packaging: To preserve sterility, instruments should be wrapped or sealed in sterile packaging.
- Sterilization: Killing germs by using sterilization equipment, such as autoclaves or ethylene oxide chambers.
- Storage: Keeping sterile goods in a hygienic, regulated setting.
- Quality control: It involves making sure that tools are properly sterilized and checking them for damage or flaws.

Sterile processing technicians are employed in a variety of healthcare facilities, such as clinics, hospitals, surgery centers, and dental offices. A high school degree or its equivalent is usually required, and they might also possess further certificates or sterile processing training.





## **2. Central Service Technician**

These technicians are employed in specialized units called central sterile processing departments, which are in charge of processing medical equipment and instruments. Although they frequently have more advanced sterilization training and responsibility, they carry out tasks that are comparable to those of SPTs. Additionally, CSP technicians could work in quality control, inventory management, and regulatory compliance.

## **3. A Surgical Technologist**

During surgical operations, surgical technologists help surgeons. They are in charge of setting up sterile fields, getting the operating room ready, and providing surgeons with equipment. They are essential to sterilizing even if their main function is to aid in surgery. In order to prevent infections, surgical technologists must make sure that all tools and equipment used during surgery are appropriately sanitized.



#### **4. Registered Nurse**

Sterilization may also be performed by registered nurses (RNs) who have received specific sterilization certification in perioperative nursing or infection control. They might supervise sterilization processes, train employees in infection control techniques, and keep an eye on adherence to sterilization guidelines.

#### **5. Biomedical Equipment Technician**

Medical equipment maintenance and repairs fall under the purview of BMETs. These technicians have specialized sterilization training. They might also be involved in sterilization, especially when it comes to equipment that needs to be cleaned or disinfected specifically.

#### **6. Infections Preventionist**

Healthcare practitioners that create and carry out initiatives to stop the spread of illnesses are known as infection preventionists. To make sure that sterilization protocols are correctly followed and that the facility complies with infection control laws, they collaborate closely

with a sterile processing technician, central service technician, and other employees.



### **7. Quality Assurance Expert**

Healthcare institutions must adhere to quality standards, which is the responsibility of quality assurance specialists. In addition to conducting audits and looking into infection incidents, they might be involved in evaluating sterilization records.

### **8. Expert In Regulatory Affairs**

Regulatory affairs professionals are in charge of making sure medical institutions abide with local, state, and federal laws. In addition to doing audits and answering regulatory questions, they could be involved in creating and executing sterilizing policies and procedures.



## **A Wide Spectrum Of Sterilization** **Sector In The US**

A crucial component of healthcare is sterilization, which involves different types of sterilization jobs. Every position, from infection preventionists to SPTs, is essential to guaranteeing the security of patients and medical personnel. People can help prevent infections and make well-informed decisions about their career pathways by being aware of the different kinds of sterilization work in the healthcare industry.



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