

OVERVIEW: On July 23, 2020 surgical services at Stanton Territorial Hospital were impacted by issues related to the processing/sterilization of surgical supplies and devices. The NTHSSA has been working to rectify the issue since this time.

Improvements: The number of wet-packs has reduced significantly since early October, allowing for an increase in the number of surgeries that can be performed.

Ongoing/New concerns: Staining issues continue, joint replacement surgeries continue to be on hold

ISSUE SPECIFIC SYNOPSIS

ISSUE: Medical Device Reprocessing
Current Status: Wet packs significantly reduced, some staining on towels/linens remains.
<p>Progress Since Last Status Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water chemistry results have been received and generally show that water sampled at Stanton is within expected ranges and specifications of manufacturer of sterilization devices. Some results indicate potential issues with hard water. • Stanton has begun the installation of a water treatment system. We are awaiting delivery of parts to complete this installation. Delivery is expected in the coming 1-2 weeks but may be impacted by availability and shipping delays as this is specialized equipment. • Stanton continues to have weekly meetings with the manufacturer of the sterilization devices. • Sterilization devices manufacturer representative will be at Stanton during the week of November 30th

ISSUE: Surgical Services
Current Status: Surgical capacity significantly increased. Total joint replacements still on hold until further investigation of staining issues related to linens used in sterilization process.
<p>Progress Since Last Status Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanton consulted infection prevention and control expertise regarding the staining issue. The result of these discussions determined a very low risk from using the instrument sets that are experiencing stained towels if all sterilization parameters have been met, thus the number of elective surgeries that can be performed has increased. Mild staining of linens, like that presenting at Stanton, is known to be a factor at certain times of year in other jurisdictions and other locations often proceed with surgical services after confirming staining is related to mineralization and confirmation of sterilization effectiveness – Stanton has met both of these criteria. • To date 367 surgeries have been completed since July 23. To date 82 of the 124 surgeries that had been initially cancelled/delayed have been either completed or rebooked. • 30 of the 42 remaining patients on the cancellation list are either joint replacements or Nunavut patients, some Nunavut patients surgeries are being deferred if deemed non urgent due to the COVID-19 situation in that Territory. There are 17 individuals waiting for joint replacement, 3 of which are in Nunavut. • While Stanton works to schedule surgeries for those who experienced delays there have been instances where patients on the cancellation list have declined dates offered to them, preferring to delay surgery.

- The pandemic situation in Alberta has worsened since the last report. Therefore, this contingency is still on hold.

Previous Updates:

- [Stanton Territorial Hospital Sterilizer/Surgical Capacity Update - November 18, 2020](#)
- Stanton Sterilization and Surgical Capacity Update - November 4, 2020
- Stanton Surgical Capacity and Medical Device Reprocessing Update – October 5, 2020
- Stanton Medical Device Reprocessing (sterilization) and Surgery Capacity Update.- September 15, 2020
- Stanton Surgical Services Impacted by Sterilization Device Malfunctions – July 24, 2020