

The SafMed Foundation Course in Sterilization and Decontamination is not product related and is offered free of charge to anyone working in the Sterile service environment. It is aligned with the Stellenbosch University Sterilisation and Decontamination Course meeting the entry requirements for admission to the Stellenbosch University Basic Course in Sterilization and Decontamination.

SafMed has been offering training free of charge in the area of Sterile Services for the last 15 years. In 2006 SafMed decided to create a training post and employ an expert in the field of hospital sterile services to specifically set up and run courses in the Sterile Service area. As part of SafMed's contribution to the community, this course is offered free of charge to anyone that works in the sterile services environment where infection control and specifically decontamination is paramount.

Denise, the SafMed Training Officer, is a qualified Nursing lecturer with 20 years lecturing experience behind her. She has taught in the UK, Johannesburg and Cape Town becoming an expert in the field of sterile services. Denise has written a CSSD manual specifically aimed at South African CSSD's which is handed out free of charge to those students attending the basic Course, 88 manuals have been given to students.

SafMed has agreed to second Denise to the University of Stellenbosch where she has assisted Professor Mehtar in running the Basic Course in Sterilization and Decontamination, since 2007.

In order to understand and meet the needs of the CSSD, SafMed has worked closely with the Western Cape, Gauteng and Kwazulu CSSD Forums when organising courses.

In December 2006 SafMed ran the first Foundation Course Workshop at Mowbray Maternity Hospital in Cape Town. Since then SafMed has trained 857 people from 157 hospitals throughout Southern Africa, with a 90% pass rate. Sixteen workshops were sponsored in 2008 alone. Four Stellenbosch University Basic Courses have been sponsored in the past two years. Due to demand SafMed sponsored Denise's travel to run a Basic Course in Pretoria.

The SafMed Foundation Course in Sterilization and Decontamination is a brief orientation to all aspects of the CSSD.

The SafMed Foundation Course is a 5-hour workshop with a short 30-minute competency exam at the end. In order to be issued with a SafMed certificate students must attain at least 80%.

The following areas are covered

History of Sterile Services

Standard of Care and Legal Implications

Infection Prevention

The Decontamination and Sterilization Process

The Principles of Cleaning

Quality Assurance

Principals of Inspection of Medical Devices

Principles of Assembly and Packaging

Steam Sterilization Practice

Storage and Distribution

SafMed now also offers an Advanced Foundation Course to allow supervisors and managers to gain further knowledge. The first Advanced Course was offered in Durban in September 2008 and was extremely successful.

The Advanced Course places more emphasis on risk assessment and managing a CSSD.

The following areas are covered

Legislation

Health and Safety Assessment

Basic Microbiology

Sterilization Methods

Standard Operating Procedures

Validation, Monitoring, Tracking and Recording

Risk Assessment Tools

Problem Solving and making Choices