Table-Top Steam Sterilizer Procurement Checklist

- Sterilizers must be capable of sterilizing the type of instruments that are used in each setting.
- The supplier's claims should be evidenced in the manufacturer's written material.
- Sterilizers must be installed, used and continuously maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Sterilization cycles must be monitored with physical, biological and chemical monitors and the results of monitoring must be documented.

The checklist below may be useful when choosing a new sterilizer.
Table-top sterilizers should meet the following criteria:

Criteria met?		Criteria	Comments
Prior to Considering Purchase:			
Yes	No	Has an assessment been done to determine that the sterilizer is required? For example, it may be more cost-effective to use single-use (disposable) instruments or equipment instead of reusable ones.	
Yes	No	Is it possible to send reusable instruments or equipment requiring sterilization to an offsite third-party medical device reprocessing provider that complies with recognized reprocessing standards?	
Sterilizer:			
Yes	No	The sterilizer has a printer/data logger to document a permanent record of physical parameters (time/temperature/pressure) plus sterilizer identification, date, time and load number for each cycle.	
Yes	No	The sterilizer uses a dynamic air removal cycle, also known as a 'steam flush pressure pulse' or a 'pre-vacuum' system. This method of air removal is important when reprocessing complex instruments (e.g. dental hand pieces, textiles, lumened or wrapped items).	
Yes	No	The sterilizer has a Health Canada medical device license (MDL). Confirm your sterilizer's MDL here: Medical devices active licenses search (canada.ca)	
The sterilizer manufacturer supplies the following information in writing:			
Yes	No	Statement of the sterilizer's ability to sterilize the proposed medical devices (e.g., lumened instruments, hollow instruments, textiles, power tools, dental hand pieces, wrapped sets of instruments). A summary of documentation is supplied to validate the claim.	
Yes	No	Statement of any unique requirements for installation and maintenance of the sterilizer. These may include operational constraints specific to altitude (e.g. Calgary is at approximately 3500 feet elevation; Ft. McMurray is at approximately 1213 feet elevation) and water supply (e.g. reservoir, potable, treated water).	
Yes	No	Recommended sterility assurance monitoring: a) Appropriate biological and chemical monitors. b) Appropriate Class II (Bowie-Dick) chemical indicator for dynamic air removal sterilizers.	
Yes	No	Recommended preventive maintenance and care procedures and schedules for sterilizer.	
Yes	No	Qualifications of technical service providers.	