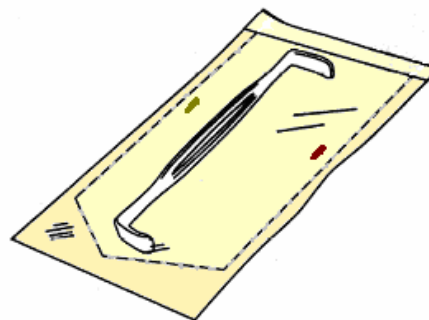


## Chex-All® Pouches: Directions for Use

Chex-All® Reorder Numbers			
Chex-All® Pouch	Chex-All® Tube	Chex-All® II	Chex-All® III
026002	025008	024008	024309
026003	025010	024010	024310
026004	025012	024012	024313
026006	025014	024014	024314
026009	025018	024015	024315
026012	025024	024018	024318
	025028	024028	024328

**Loading the Pouches.** The size of Chex-All® pouches should be chosen so that the instrument placed in the pouch fits snugly, but does not cause any tearing of the heat or adhesive seals during the course of a sterilization cycle.

Instruments should be positioned to allow the sterilant to come into contact with all surfaces. All jointed instruments should be in the open or unlocked position with ratchets not engaged. Racks, pins, stringers, or other specifically designed devices can be used to hold the instruments in the open position. Instruments composed of more than one part or with sliding pieces or removable parts should be disassembled unless the device manufacturer provides specific instructions, supported by test data, to the contrary. Instruments should not be held together with rubber bands. Items with lumens should first be moistened with distilled or de-mineralized water. Complex instruments (e.g., air-powered instruments, endoscopes, and instruments with lumens or channels) should be prepared and sterilized according to the device manufacturer's written instructions. When double packaging an item, two sequentially sized pouches should be used such that the sealed inner pouch fits inside the outer pouch without folding of either pouch. The double packaging should be arranged such that pouch plastic faces plastic and paper faces paper.



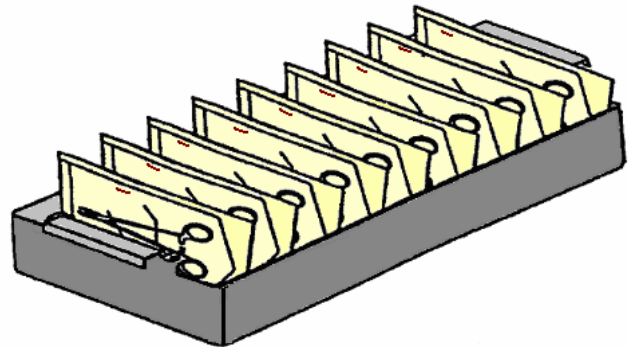
It is acceptable to use tip protectors on instruments that are placed in Chex-All® pouches. For steam sterilization cycles, acceptable tip protectors should be steam-permeable, fit loosely, and be used according to the manufacturer's instructions. If tip protectors are fabricated from inappropriate materials or if they fit too tightly, they could also interfere with steam contact and should be replaced by tip protectors that are verified for steam sterilization and/or looser.

**Sealing the Pouches.** Chex-All® pouches and tubes need to be heat sealed. Chex-All® pouches are manufactured with triple ribbed heat seals on three dimension of the pouch, while the tubes have triple ribbed heat seals on two dimensions and it is the responsibility of the user

to seal the remaining seals. After placing the item into the pouch or tube, the final seals are sealed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the heat sealer being used. Chex-All® II and III are self sealing pouches. After placing the item into the pouch, the release liner strip covering the adhesive is peeled off and the pouch paper is folded at the crease so that the adhesive is in contact with the plastic of the pouch. Pressure is then applied to the folded over part of the pouch to complete the sealing process.

**Sterilizing the Pouches.** According to the AAMI ST79:2006 *Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization and Sterility Insurance in Health Care Facilities*, paper-plastic pouches, such as Chex-All®, should stand on edge in relation to the rack that contains the pouches or the shelf on which they are sitting when using a sterilization rack. The paper side of one pouch should be next to the plastic side of the adjacent pouch. The rationale for this position is that placing pouches on their side allows for adequate sterilant contact and facilitates drying. The standard recommends the use of holding racks or baskets specifically designed for pouches.

When placed inside a tray, the plastic side of one pouch is facing the paper side of its neighbor. Also, note that, since steam is lighter than air, the bottom of the pouch is more difficult to sterilize. Therefore, during steam sterilization cycles, the pouches should be placed in the tray so that the steam indicator is on the bottom. Conversely, ethylene oxide is heavier than air, so during ethylene oxide sterilization cycles, the pouches are placed so that the ethylene oxide (EO) indicator is at the top.



Chex-All® pouches and tubes as well as Chex-All® II pouches contain process indicator inks for both steam and EO sterilization on both the inside and outside of the pouch paper. Chex-All® III pouches have indicator ink on the outside only.

The external ink serves as process indicator and helps to distinguish pouches exposed and not exposed to the sterilants. The appropriate color change of the internal indicators demonstrates that Steam or EO gas penetrated to the inside of the pouch and all critical sterilization parameters were present. The unprocessed steam ink is a light cream or beige color that turns black/grey when processed. The unprocessed EO ink is a maroon or red color that turns any shade of green when processed. If the internal indicators did not change to the specified colors, the content needs to be re-processed.

**Opening the Pouches.** Chex-All® pouches and tubes are opened by grasping the apex of the pouch such that the paper of the pouch is between the thumb and forefinger of one hand and the plastic of the pouch is between the thumb and forefinger of the other. The two sides are then separated with a smooth pulling motion as the hands are drawn apart.