

An Outpatient Surgical Center's Checklist for Evaluating Infection Prevention Solutions

As outpatient surgical centers continue to serve patients through a global epidemic and beyond, it is critical to ensure no one that comes in and out of the office is exposed to harmful pathogens. Surgical centers that implement a series of IP procedures followed by every member of the team have a clear advantage in preventing infection. These teams need to anticipate what procedures and technologies will enable them to maintain the safest patient environment. Here is a checklist of critical considerations as surgical center leaders deploy infection prevention measures throughout their location.

- Bundle Manual Cleaning and Sterilization:**
The American Journal of Infection Control notes that combining UVC technology with manual cleaning is one of the most effective ways to significantly decrease the pool of harmful pathogens that cause infection. UVC exposure for a specific length of time and intensity increases the effectiveness of a dental office's IP protocol by targeting and destroying pathogens that can potentially harm patients.
- Select a UVC System Specially Designed for Surgical Center:**
Outpatient surgical teams should select infection prevention tools that align with the unique set-up of their operating rooms and centers. Any IP solution should provide ultra-fast and effective pathogen-killing power without having to be moved or positioned with each use. Surgical centers should also look for a system that allows its control to be located outside of the room for the safe operation of the system.
- Demand Ultra-Fast Treatment Time:**
Consider a wall- or ceiling-mounted system that enables rooms to be quickly disinfected between patient visits with little effect on throughput. The UVC dose should be quickly delivered to target life-threatening HAI pathogens and disinfect an entire room with high efficacy. Best-in-class UVC machines can disinfect a room in as little as 2 minutes, minimizing downtime between surgical cases.
- Prioritize Ease-of-Use:**
While UVC technology is advanced, operating these systems shouldn't be, especially if you want to ensure all surgical EV staff adheres to your office, local, state, and federal disinfection guidelines. Outpatient centers should choose a UVC system that user-friendly and straightforward to maximize compliance. Look for a system that's design includes remote operation and monitoring, a clear indication of completed disinfection, and one that stores data on the office's overall UVC protocol adherence.
- Consider Surface & Air Disinfection:**
With the CDC's finding that Coronavirus can remain infective for up to 16 hours in respirable-sized aerosols, surgical centers need to consider disinfection of not just surfaces, but the air in their facility as well. The right UVC System will address both surface and airborne bioburdens and help keep patients and workers safe in dental offices.
- Ensure Proof of Compliance is Feature:**
A wall-mounted system, uniquely designed for outpatient surgical centers, should also measure, record, and report the UVC dosage delivered—in real-time—ensuring you have the proof of compliance data needed for potential government reporting and communication to patients. Critical information like date, time, operator, room number, cycle time, and delivered dose is captured to ensure delivery infection preventing UVC doses throughout the space.

Learn more about UVC disinfection and how the RD-Fx UVC System can improve your outpatient surgical center's infection prevention efficacy. The powerful, cloud-based reporting system, uniquely configured for your space by Steriliz experts, provides unrivaled accountability and compliance reporting. Our team can help you determine the right IP solution for your facility and work with you through every step of the process.