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Citation

Authors' objectives
Given a new regulation restricting the use of EtO/CFC as a sterilization process for medical material, the purpose of the bulletin was to review the scientific evidence regarding the effectiveness and the safety of alternative methods to EtO/CFC for sterilizing reused "single-use only" devices, particularly cardiac catheters and pacemakers.

Authors' conclusions
Given the paucity of rigorous, specific, scientific data on the effectiveness of the methods currently available as alternatives to EtO/CFC for sterilizing cardiac catheters and pacemakers, CETS is insistent about cautioning institutions against the risk of applying the positive conclusions of its previous reports on reutilization to any practice based on a sterilization method other than EtO/CFC. This warning applies not only to the reuse of catheters and pacemakers, but also to the reuse of other single-use devices, especially those with complex geometry or a narrow lumen. These include a number of single-use devices reused in laparoscopic surgery.

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