

EtO Sterilization Prevents Infection

Americans are admitted to the hospital 33.4 million timesⁱ and visit doctors 1.0 billion times per year.ⁱⁱ

82.3 percent of adults and 91 percent of children see a health care professional each year.ⁱⁱ

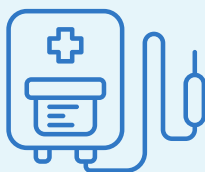
That care requires billions of pieces of sterile medical equipment: syringes, catheters, and surgical tools.



33.4 M
hospital admissions



1.0 B
doctor visits



20 B
devices sterilized
with EtO

Approximately half of those devices – 20 billion – are sterilized in the United States each year with ethylene oxide (EtO).ⁱⁱⁱ

**EtO is safe and proven effective
to achieve FDA-required sterility.**

- That millions of patients experience medical care without life-endangering infection is the product of modern science, including EtO.
- Infections that do occur can be extremely dangerous.
- Sepsis, for example, is “a medical emergency ... that can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.”^{iv}

Sepsis causes the deaths of
350,000 adults
each year in the United States.^v

For survivors, it can cause amputations or result from amputations.^{vi}

Antimicrobial resistance is another compelling reason to fight infection.

More than **2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections** occur in the United States each year, causing more than 35,000 deaths.^{vii}

MRSA, or methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, is a bacteria that is resistant to several antibiotics. It can cause bloodstream infections, pneumonia, or surgical site infections.

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If left untreated, MRSA infections can become severe and cause sepsis—the body’s extreme response to an infection.^{viii}

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The Bottom Line

Health care providers fight infection around the clock. Their challenge would be far steeper without EtO, carefully controlled and regulated and the only sterilization option for many medical devices. The need for sterile medical equipment will only increase as the population ages, antibiotic-resistant infections proliferate, and health care professionals seek to keep patients safe.

ⁱ <http://bit.ly/3KdqP1B>

ⁱⁱ <http://bit.ly/3Is74lo>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://bit.ly/3xpiDDP>

^{iv} <http://bit.ly/3KaDPF9>

^v <http://bit.ly/40YZDJM>

^{vi} <http://bit.ly/3l6qCdU>

^{vii} <http://bit.ly/3YQByD0>

^{viii} <http://bit.ly/3EdAbX0>