

# LEADERSHIP: STOP PROCESSING INSTRUMENTS!



SPD LEADERSHIP EXPERT

BEYOND  
CLEAN

**John Kimsey**

VP, Processing Optimization &  
Customer Success | STERIS

*Beyond Clean SPD Leadership Expert™:*

# **Leadership: Stop Processing Instruments!**

*John Kimsey*

*VP, Processing Optimization & Customer Success | STERIS*

Yes, you read that correctly! Stop processing instruments! As Sterile Processing or GI processing leaders, we must move beyond the day-to-day thinking that our job is to process instruments! It's not. Our job is to continuously improve how we process instruments. A slight change in words but a huge change in approach!

Ask yourself this question--"How much of my supervisor's time, manager's time, educator's time, lead technician's time, or any other SPD "leader's" time is spent on getting the OR what they need?" If you're honest, I would guess a very high percentage of their time is devoted to processing instruments. Getting the job done day in and day out. It's what we do but it shouldn't be our only focus.

The higher up the leadership ladder you go the more time you should spend on continuously improving how instruments are processed. Lead techs are typically focused on processing instruments, but can and should provide valuable one-on-one coaching to other techs, improving their ability to process instruments. Supervisors should strive to spend 20% of their time improving how the instruments are processed.

This may include ensuring technician compliance with standard work, observing employees, and processes to identify opportunities to reduce waste and improve quality and efficiency, identifying root causes of quality errors, and actively working with senior leadership on improvement initiatives. Managers should be measuring and monitoring for trends in operational performance, employee performance, and quality, and providing guidance and structure for ongoing process improvement. Managers and Directors should spend the greatest time on initiatives that improve how instruments are processed.

My challenge to leaders, keep a diary of where and how you spend your time. Are you spending enough time continuously improving how your department processes instruments? Let's make tomorrow better than today!

Have more questions? Contact John at: [john\\_kimsey@steris.com](mailto:john_kimsey@steris.com)



*Beyond Clean SPD Leadership Expert™ Biography:*

**John Kimsey**  
VP, Processing Optimization &  
Customer Success

 **STERIS®**



John Kimsey is a seasoned healthcare management professional who helps leadership teams and Sterile Processing departments optimize operational performance. Leveraging 10 years of non healthcare management consulting experience, he joined STERIS in 2001 and began to merge lean operational approaches with healthcare's clinical requirements, creating a new vision for Sterile Processing.

His first published article in 2005, "The Sterile Processing Factory Goal: 100% 3 " solidified his approach by elevating Sterile Processing and incorporating best practices with People, Process, and Leadership providing efficient and quality patient outcomes. In the years' since, John has been published several other times and spoken at national and international conferences on sterile processing topics John has managed both onsite and offsite reprocessing centers, consulted large and small healthcare Customers, spoken internationally on Lean Sterile Processing, and continues to offer advice and hands on assistance to optimize customer's reprocessing departments.

At STERIS, John helps customers, industry partners, international teams, and healthcare systems optimizing their SPD/CSSD operations for measurable success. Whether solving labor shortages, leadership deficiencies, strategic decisions, or process and quality issues, John comes with a desire to see people succeed.

The logo for BEYOND CLEAN features a red ECG line on the left, followed by the word "BEYOND" in black, "CLEAN" in red, and a red horizontal line on the right.