



June 2015

Connecticut Passes Legislation Setting Certification Standards for Central Service Technicians

On May 26, 2015, Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed into law [Public Act 15-11](#) (PA 15-11), "An Act Concerning Persons Who Decontaminate Reusable Medical Instruments or Devices." This new legislation requires central service technicians (CSTs) to meet certain certification requirements. PA 15-11 defines a CST as a person who "decontaminates, inspects, assembles, packages and sterilizes reusable medical instruments or devices in a health care facility, whether such person is employed by the health care facility or provides services pursuant to a contract with the health care facility." PA 15-11, effective January 1, 2016, applies to outpatient surgical facilities and hospitals other than chronic disease hospitals.

Under PA 15-11, CSTs are required to pass a nationally accredited central service exam and be credentialed by either the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management or the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc. Alternatively, a person may obtain either of the above credentials within two years from the date of hire or contracting with a health care facility.

Certain individuals who perform services similar to a CST are exempt from the CST exam and certification requirements. These include individuals employed by or contracted with a health care facility as a CST before January 1, 2016; health care providers licensed in Connecticut; and students and interns supervised by a health care provider. PA 15-11 also exempts from the CST requirements individuals who act in consultation with a certified CST to decontaminate or sterilize reusable medical instruments or devices but do not work in a central service department; however, such individuals must receive training and be deemed competent in decontaminating and sterilizing based on the health care facility's standards and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. CSTs and exempt individuals must annually complete at least ten hours of continuing education. Health care facilities must submit to the Department of Public Health, upon request, documentation that each of its CSTs meets the requirements of PA 15-11.

PA 15-11 also requires health care facilities to retain a list of the names and job titles of exempt individuals, including all licensed health care providers, other than those employed by or contracted with a health care facility as a CST before January 1, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of Robinson+Cole's [Health Law Group](#).

[Lisa M. Boyle](#) | [Leslie J. Levinson](#) | [Brian D. Nichols](#) | [Theodore J. Tucci](#)

[Pamela H. Del Negro](#) | [Christopher J. Librandi](#) | [Meaghan Mary Cooper](#)

[Nathaniel T. Arden](#) | [Conor O. Duffy](#)

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