INTRODUCTION

According to ISO 17665/2010, the values of the physical parameters of the autoclave must be recorded in each sterilization cycle. To understand the importance of these records, the Directors’ Collegiate Resolution 15/2012 of the National Health Surveillance Agency, Art. 04, it is required that all documents related to the products sterilization with their respective autoclave sterilization parameters be documented for sanitary inspection purposes.

OBJECTIVE

Evaluate the records of autoclave parameters and verify the effectiveness of record keeping in a Brazilian public hospital.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is a report of the experience for the evaluation record of autoclave parameters and verification about their effective fill. The registration completion of the autoclaves parameters is the responsibility of a nurse assistant. For this study sterilization records for January 2007, January 2011 and January 2015 were used. In 2007 and 2011 the records were manual and carried out in a specific document. From September 2007 on, Central of Material and Sterilization nurses started an improvement program to properly document autoclave records. In 2014 the Central of Material and Sterilization was computerized to facilitate and ensure greater accuracy in documenting the sterilization records.

RESULTS

Improper documentation was found related to the sterilization records as repeated allotment numbers, incomplete recording, incorrectly entered data, etc. In January 2007, 619 sterilization cycles were performed and recorded. Of the 619 cycles, 262 errors were found. In January 2011, 663 sterilization cycles were performed and documented. Of the 663 cycles, 64 sterilization cycles showed non-conformities. In January 2015, 683 cycles were documented with six sterilization cycle non-conformities.

DISCUSSION

Evaluating the efficiency of documenting sterilization records has become an important practice in sterilization services. The results presented in January 2007 showed high non-conformity rate and during that period improvements had not been established in the department. In January 2011, there was a positive response from improvements developed by the nurse assistants. In January 2015, there was a significant reduction in non-conformities in the sterilization records. It is evident that the computerization process helped in reducing errors.

CONCLUSION

This study allowed us to understand the importance of proper documentation and evaluation of sterilization records, as well as the improvement for the performing team to ensure better efficiency of the process.