

Portable sterilizer makes surgery safer for millions



Most current sterilization methods require high temperatures and pressures, making them particularly costly to the poorest communities, leaving billions of citizens without the care they need. Eniware LLC's [portable sterilizer](#) is lightweight, safe, and quick, and only needs a capsule of room-temperature nitrogen dioxide to fully sterilize surgical instruments without using water or electricity.

Eniware's sterilizer is a 25L case with carrying handle. Health teams open the case, insert the instruments needing sterilization, pop in the small capsule containing the nitrogen dioxide gas (NO₂) and run the sterilization cycle. When the cycle is complete, the NO₂ is absorbed by a small pellet scrubber that can be disposed of with regular waste.



By using NO₂, Eniware eliminates communities' dependency on refrigeration or heating. The NO₂ is safe to use on a wide variety of medical materials, including adhesives, nylon and copper, and works by damaging the DNA of any microorganisms clinging to the instruments. The sterilizers are meant to be reused many times, so after the initial investment, the only ongoing cost is for new packs of NO₂ capsules.

Field clinical trials will start in Africa in June 2016, and Eniware continues to look for additional investment to scale up production and distribution. We have seen [walk-in telemedicine kiosks](#) and a [portable, miniaturized emergency care unit](#). What other health care services could be taken out of buildings and into communities?

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