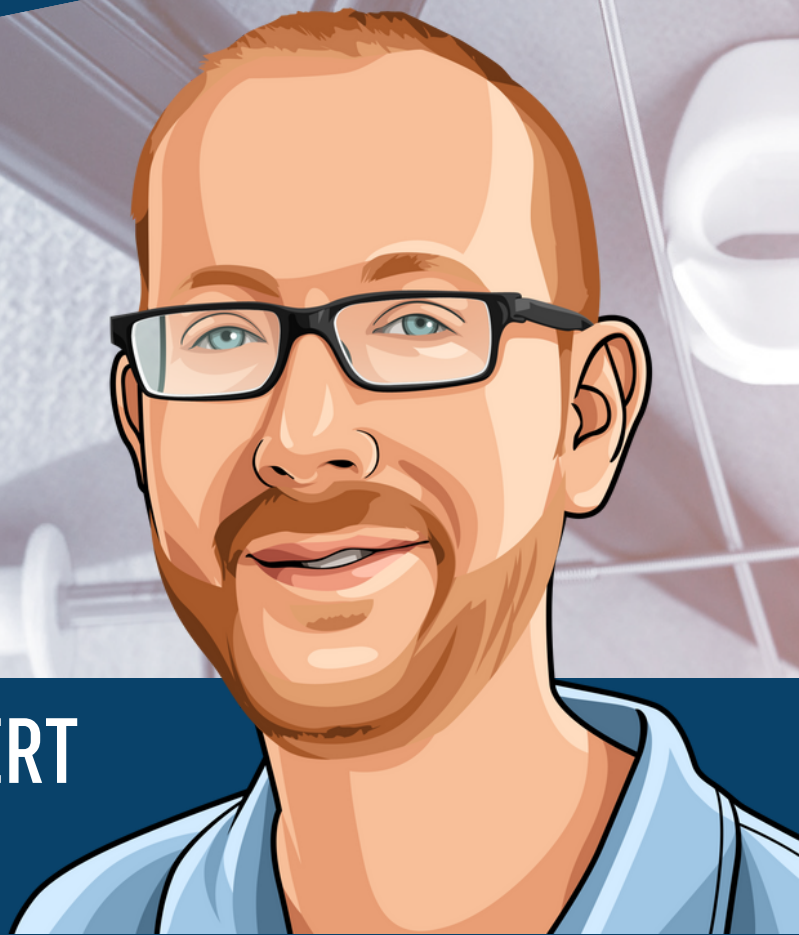


# TRANSPORTATION:

THE MOST OVERLOOKED PHASE OF FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPE REPROCESSING?



FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPE EXPERT

BEYOND  
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**Michael Matthews**  
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*Beyond Clean Flexible Endoscope Expert™:*

## Transportation: The Most Overlooked Phase of Flexible Endoscope Reprocessing?

*Michael Matthews, MBA, CLSSGB, CRCST, CIS, CHL  
Director of Customer Training and Education | Agiliti*

In my opinion, transportation may be the most overlooked part of the flexible endoscope reprocessing cycle. It also may be the biggest opportunity for cost-saving improvements.

Transportation is easily forgotten because there is often no specific hospital department that “owns” the responsibility. Some hospitals utilize clinical staff. Some have support staff who also help with room turnover and patient transport. Others call for the reprocessing staff, and many have a combination of departments who share the responsibility depending on the day.

Regardless of who is responsible for transportation, they likely have many competing priorities and have received no specialized training specific to transporting endoscopes in a way that prevents them from being damaged in the process.

To make matters worse, while many transport containers do a good job of protecting the scope from the outside environment (and vice versa), they don't always do a good job of protecting the scope from itself.

What do I mean by this?

The light guide connector (the large end of the scope that connects to the video tower) weighs 2 lbs., which is the same weight as an orthopedic mallet. When this bulky part of the scope hits the more delicate parts of the scope, such as the distal tip, it's just like hitting your scope with a mallet, which can result in crushed spots and punctures. If more than one scope is put into a transport container, the likelihood of damage increases significantly.

How can you reduce damage done during transportation?

- Provide education on how to properly handle flexible endoscopes for anyone involved in the transport process.
- Invest in transportation containers that hold the scopes in place or protect the delicate (and expensive) distal tip from the light guide connector.
- Invest in transport carts if you find that staff are forced to carry more than one scope container at a time.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Michael at: [michael.matthews@agilitihealth.com](mailto:michael.matthews@agilitihealth.com)



*Beyond Clean Flexible Endoscope Expert™ Biography:*

# Michael Matthews

Director of Customer Training and Education



Michael Matthews, MBA, CLSSGB, CRCST, CIS, CHL currently serves as the Director of Customer Training and Education for Agiliti. He previously served as Director of Clinical Education and Training for Northfield Medical in addition to former roles of Territory Manager for the Little Rock, Arkansas area, and a Clinical Education Manager for the southeast region. Before working at Northfield, Michael served as the manager for sterile processing at Baptist-Health Medical Center-Conway in Arkansas. During this time, Michael also served as an Infection Preventionist on a PRN basis to consult on reprocessing services throughout the Baptist-Health system. Michael has previously served as a Sterile Processing Technician at Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Healthcare (Catholic Health Initiatives) (2012-2013), Baptist East Hospital (2011-2012), both in Louisville, KY, and system manager for sterilization and high-level disinfection at Conway Regional Medical Center (2013-2016). He holds three Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) certifications for sterile processing. Michael has also served as a subject matter expert and participated in exam development for HSPA. Michael holds an MBA and has also been certified as a Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt. He has published articles in Infection Control Today, Becker's Hospital Review, Healthcare Purchasing News, as well as several LinkedIn articles in the sterile processing community. Michael is a former cohost of the Beyond Clean podcast, the premier podcast for sterile processing professionals throughout the world.

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