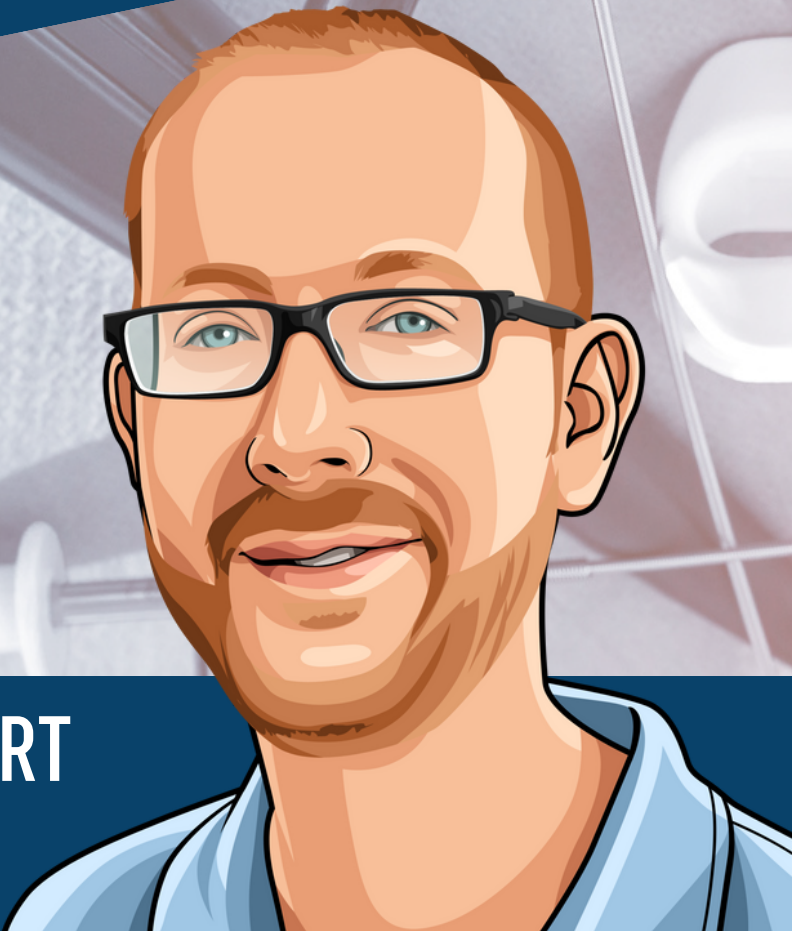




LAST CHECKPOINT BEFORE PATIENT USE: PRE-PROCEDURE SETUP



FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPE EXPERT

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Beyond Clean Flexible Endoscope Expert™:

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Pre-procedure setup is the final phase of a damage prevention process audit, and it's the last opportunity for technicians to notice any warning signs that a scope might be damaged before it's used on a patient. Unfortunately, the condition of the scope can often go overlooked until it breaks during the procedure.

Here are three things clinical staff should check for **before** the patient is brought into the room:

- **Angulation:** The most common source of physician frustration with flexible scopes is a poorly performing angulation system. Physicians depend on the angulation of the scope to navigate the complex anatomy of the alimentary canal. If there is looseness (movement) in the knob, or the articulation is not smooth, it's a good indication that the scope should be switched out and sent for repair.
- **White-Balance:** The physician depends on the quality of the image from the scope to perform the necessary steps of the procedure. Failure to follow proper white-balance testing can result in a dim or discolored image. While most flexible scope towers "remember" each scope's settings, it's important to regularly recalibrate the white-balance to compensate for drift or other changes with the scope.
- **Insertion Tube:** Make sure to visually inspect the insertion tube and distal tip for any damage. As I shared in my previous Expert Series article, a lot of scope damage can happen while they are being stored. This is especially important if there are any scratches or gouges in the insertion tube, as these can cut the patient internally during the procedure.

Tip: If your clinical staff are not performing pre-procedure checks, or if you receive a lot of physician complaints, these are signs that more education and training may be needed to ensure your scopes undergo this final checkpoint before patient use.

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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