

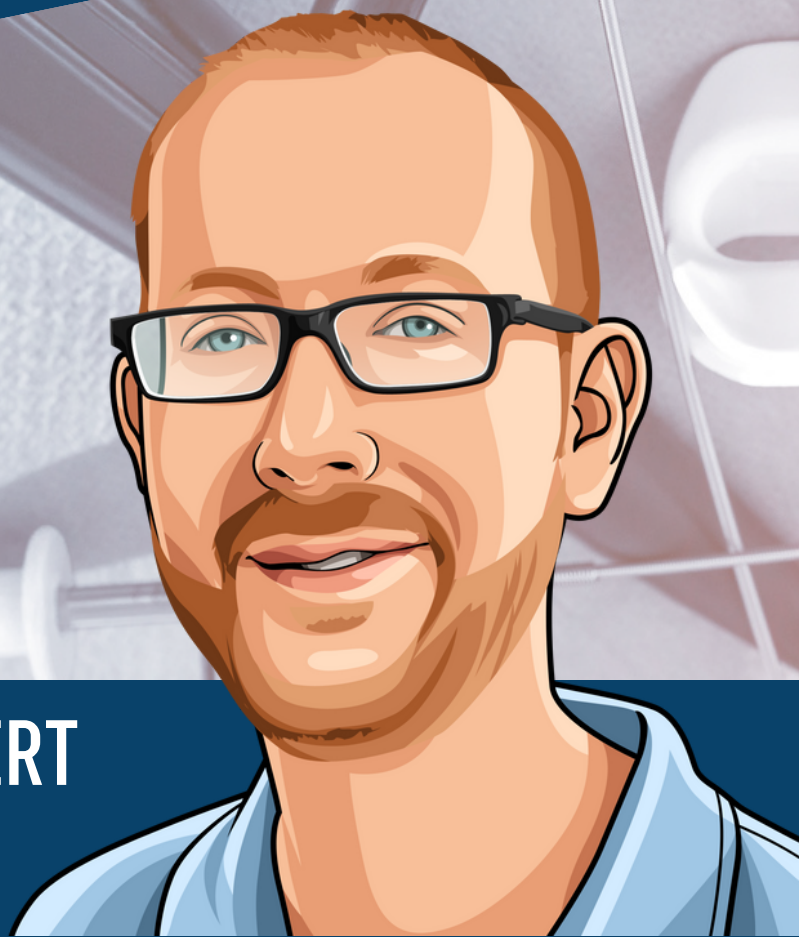


PRECLEANING: WHEN EVERY SECOND MATTERS

FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPE EXPERT



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Michael Matthews
Director of Customer Training and
Education | Agiliti

Beyond Clean Flexible Endoscope Expert™:

Precleaning: When Every Second Matters

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

After a procedure, your flexible endoscope embarks on a critical process of decontamination, cleaning and inspection to ensure it is ready for the next patient.

While the goal is for this process to run smoothly – and without error – the reality is that damage to flexible endoscopes can easily happen during this time.

The time period immediately following a procedure is one of the most critical points for flexible scope cleaning, which is why accrediting bodies like The Joint Commission have been heavily focused on it over the past several years. Blood and bodily fluids only take seconds to begin drying onto the surfaces of the scope, and once they have dried, they become exponentially more difficult (or even impossible) to clean.

This is most apparent at the air/water nozzle on the distal tip. This extremely narrow opening tends to accumulate bioburden (usually in the form of mucus) and is not accessible to brushing during the decontamination process. Consequently, once the bioburden has dried, this channel does not allow the necessary air and water to flow properly for the procedure.

The result? It presents a significant patient safety risk.

Unfortunately, pressures to turn rooms quickly and a lack of training (model-specific) often leads to precleaning being incomplete or skipped entirely. For SPD departments, it can be challenging to correct the problem as the issue is typically only noticed during the repair process by an outside vendor. Without feedback from a repair vendor, or access to repair data, it's unlikely the root cause (pre-cleaning) will be identified without a significant rise in service costs.

How can you address gaps in pre-cleaning practices?

- Gather a cross-functional team with representatives from OR/Endoscopy leadership, SPD, Infection Prevention and Risk Management – and include your repair vendor – to identify, understand and work through the gaps.
- Ensure staff are aware of the model-specific requirements for each scope you're using and provide education around those pre-cleaning practices.

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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