



# ST108 AND THE BENEFITS OF WELL-MANAGED WATER

WATER QUALITY EXPERT

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We discussed previously that the new standard that governs water for use in the processing of medical devices has been released. We are going to spend some time discussing ANSI/AAMI ST108 as this series progresses.

A legitimate question to ask that may be on many people's minds is, "why is this happening?" This is a good question since creating extra work and receiving no benefit is something none of us need in healthcare. The short answer is that there are significant benefits to managing the water quality used in the Sterile Processing department that result in increased patient safety: lower cost to repair, replace, and inventory medical devices and ultimately a reduction in the workload of Sterile Processing departments. The overall benefit is to lower the cost of care while increasing patient safety.

The first few sections of the ST108 standard discuss the benefits of managing water quality in Sterile Processing. One such example is that medical devices have increased in complexity over time and, in turn, require more complex methods and training to process them for reuse. Many have small features that must be carefully cleaned to function properly and not harbor pathogens that jeopardize patient safety.

We have seen the emergence of "Super Bugs" that must be inactivated on these devices, or else they can seriously affect the health of our patients. Water quality plays an important role in the effectiveness of our tools and chemicals used to combat these bugs. Besides harboring bacteria, viruses, and endotoxins, improperly managed water can be contaminated with other naturally occurring substances that can also degrade or obstruct the function of these fine features.

It is important to note that these contaminants are present in the water used at the processing sinks, washers, and ultrasonics and do their damage before the application of RO or DI water in final rinses.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Jeffrey at [jpaquet@mmicmedical.com](mailto:jpaquet@mmicmedical.com)

*Beyond Clean Water Quality Expert™ Biography:*

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Jeffrey Paquet is the CEO of MMIC Medical Systems and its VERDA Water Quality Systems. Mr. Paquet is an expert in Product Realization and Commercialization that stems from his career that spans nearly 30 years in various industries including Healthcare, Automotive, and Aerospace. Jeffrey has a Bachelors of Science in Aerospace Engineering from UCLA with his career focused on design, product development, and manufacturing. His experience in the Aerospace industry has driven his belief that the technology and operational systems employed to monitor processes and provide the ability for rapid response to dynamic situations have direct and valuable application in the healthcare environment.

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