

Beyond Clean Water Quality Expert TM:

GOOD WATER SAVES TIME

Jeffrey Paquet | President & CEO VERDA Water Quality Systems© & mmic™

Last time, we introduced the idea that having a better water quality standard in Sterile Processing has significant benefits for our patients and our departments. The "ANSI/AAMI ST108 Water for the Processing of Medical Devices" is the document that will lead us to a better future. I mentioned that properly managing water quality will directly benefit a department by reducing its workload. That would be a welcome outcome for everyone in SPD. Not once has anyone I've worked with in a department come to me and said, "We don't have enough to do."

One of the main rationales given by this standard for its existence is to improve the longevity of medical devices being processed and the equipment used to process them. In SPD, water touches almost everything we do, it's everywhere including on the floor. Water is the foundation of our processes. Like a building, if you don't start with a good foundation the whole building will collapse. That is the case with water quality in SPD.

There is a significant, and quantifiable amount of time spent by department personnel with instruments that do not pass quality inspection processes. First, there is the time spent looking at them and determining that they must be discarded or repaired. Once this process is complete there is another process to manage the replacing or repairing. Once the instrument is replaced or returned there is a process for managing them back into inventory.

Finally, they must go through the department to be processed for use. That amounts to a lot of work by people in the department that is not being spent on their primary job duties, which is getting devices prepared for cases. It is estimated that 50 to 60 percent of this damage is caused by poorly managed water quality. What would your department do if it could get back half of the time spent in managing damaged devices?

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Jeffrey Paquet is the CEO of MMIC Medical Systems and its VERDA Water Quality Systems. Mr. Paquet is expert in Product Realization an Commercialization that stems from his career that spans nearly 30 yeears 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.

