UTILITY WATER:
CASE STUDIES, HOT WATER

WATER QUALITY EXPERT

BEYOND CLEAN

Jeffrey Paquet | President & CEO
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Beyond Clean Water Quality Expert™:

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We have discussed before how many hospitals have difficulty meeting the AAMI TIR 34 guidelines for Utility Water; the water used everywhere in your department except for final rinse. In most sterile processing departments, this water comes straight from the facility. Bad Utility Water impacts your department in many, often subtle, ways.

We recently had a customer that suddenly began experiencing vacuum faults with its new sterilizers. Water consumed for this purpose was coming straight from the municipality without treatment. An analysis was performed. It was discovered that the water temperature was exceeding 90° Fahrenheit, far above the OEM specification of a max of 65°. In checking municipal reports, this was typical during summer months. This warm water was causing sterilizer vacuum failures. While AAMI does not specify a Utility Water temperature maximum, it does state that the department must follow the water temperature requirements stated in instrument, equipment, and chemistry IFU's.

For this customer, this issue can only be rectified through the installation of a chiller for water consumed by the sterilizer vacuum generation system. The chiller will need to use a refrigeration cycle to cool the water that will then be returned to the sterilizer. This real-world example reinforces that not following equipment IFU's and not paying attention to Utility Water quality can get you into hot water!

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Jeffrey at jpaquet@mmicmedical.com

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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 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.

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