# WHO IS RESPONSIBUN BOR WATER QUALITY IN

## WATER QUALITY EXPERT BEYOND CLEAN Jeffrey VERDAV

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

#### Beyond Clean Water Quality Expert ™: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER QUALITY IN YOUR FACILITY?

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Last time, we continued to discuss the benefits to SPDs having the newly released <u>"ANSI/AAMI ST108 Water Standard"</u>. Let's get into some details of what is in this document that will deliver us some positive outcomes. Section 4 gives us the first taste of how this standard is qualitatively different from TIR34. The standard establishes a requirement for a multi-disciplinary team that will be responsible for the policies and procedures that govern all water used for processing medical instruments in your facility.

The very first thing it says about the team is it should have executive sponsorship. This will resonate with quite a few of you who feel that executive leadership does not provide your departments with enough attention and resources, particularly in water-related issues. Here it is in writing that they must be actively involved. Sponsorship means they must demonstrate that they have fulfilled their duties in creating the team, empowering it with authority and resources to carry out its duties, and they are periodically involved with the team to demonstrate oversight and ownership as its sponsor.

The water quality management team may consist of members both inside and outside the facility. Internal team members should be representatives from Infection Control, Surgery, and Clinical Engineering. There is also a role defined for a Water Treatment Specialist which would be an example of a team member that would come from outside the facility.

Once the team is in place, one of the first suggested activities is to perform a risk analysis. This is a survey that looks at the types of instruments and processing equipment used in the department and then identifies the potential water-related risks. These risks would be to the devices themselves, the processes, the patients, and the department or other personnel.

The water characteristics that would cause risks would be unacceptable water color, microbial levels, inorganic or organic contaminants, pH, conductivity, and water temperature. Not all facilities use the same equipment, devices, or processes so the assessment is unique to the facility. The results of the risk assessment will form the foundation for how water quality is managed and monitored by that facility.

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 expert in Product Realization and 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.

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