WEBINAR 1 // SERIES#2

ASP SUMMIT

CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION WEBINARS

Medical Device reprocessing:

FROM HISTORY TO CURRENT CONCEPTS OF GOOD PRACTICE.

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THIS IS THE FIRST OF FIVE WEBINARS DEDICATED TO MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING PRESENTED BY ASP MEDICAL EDUCATION.

The Importance of Guidelines

Medical institutions and healthcare professionals must all follow standards and guidelines. Among these guidelines and standards are recommendations which are based on experience, best practices, and act as a reference to healthcare workers worldwide. Hospital practices are aligned to the most updated suggestions and processes regarding patient safety guidelines are to be promoted and enhanced. Every medical community and healthcare professional should also use suggested decision-making processes so as to discuss and update guidelines and substantially contribute to their implementation. Medical device reprocessing guidelines are linked to patient safety and institutions worldwide implement them and healthcare professionals need to follow them.

Role in the prevention of SSIs

Correct reprocessing knowledge and applications support infection prevention and control in hospital settings and in many other healthcare institutions and have a particular focus on the prevention of surgical site infections. Understanding microbiology surveillance and laboratory data may contribute to reduce these complications considered to be adverse events in healthcare. All steps in reprocessing are important and must be followed and applied and so offer an "organizational" barrier to microbes which cause SSIs and their effects on patients and hospitals. Medical device reprocessing claims clean and safe steps which afford a reliable means of infection prevention in all healthcare settings and specialties.

> **"Read, update, train and follow reprocessing guidelines...**

> **"Keep reprocessing clean and safe and contribute to infection prevention.**

Healthcare workers training implementation

Training is a fundamental in the field of healthcare. Observational training and practical overviews are the most applied methodologies to ensure rapid uptake of essential knowledges and mental fixation of steps and maneuvers necessary to achieve the highest quality and safety. Observation of reprocessing phases assures all workers involved in the process to capture the exact steps and be able to "see" actual guideline application. Briefing and debriefing are the core of the entire training program ; these are part of team communication. Learning curve improvement is favored by "observing" all steps.

Accountability on patient safety outcomes

Reprocessing challenges in the future may be represented by continuous quality improvement strategies shared by all stakeholders in the field of healthcare. Improvements must be disclosed, and transparency is a policy item that should become part of care and cure. Nevertheless, being a backstage process which a patient may never come directly across with, reprocessing and its flow is a fundamental part of the "production chain" which assures patients safe diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

Disclose evidence and enhance reliability among professionals...

Reprocessing is a key in infection prevention and control

Reprocessing is a requirement and healthcare professionals need to follow guidelines in order to support infection prevention and control. Best practices are the results of the application of continuous professional experience directly in the "field" or on "the front line". Reprocessing being a requirement is an important key . This is achieved by frequent audits performed to understand and find improvement strategies; correct reprocessing steps and assessments contribute to fight a "microbiological" war in healthcare which is a threat to patients and healthcare professionals worldwide.

Correct reprocessing means better outcomes and also customer satisfaction...

Resume

Medical device reprocessing is an achievement in sterilization and disinfection, and it offers many opportunities for professionals and institutions involved as also the medical device industries. Continuous updating of guidelines as well as technological improvements represent these achievements. Many diagnostic and therapeutical procedures are performed using instruments and technologies requiring correct and High-Level disinfection (HLD) or Low temperature sterilization. Managers of healthcare institutions must understand the effects of reprocessing using the appropriate equipment and following guidelines and best practices. Investments in reprocessing will allow facilities to improve IC&P program and patient safety. Economical savings should be a secondary requirement as long as savings don't jeopardize patient safety.

Take Home Messages

1. GUIDELINES MUST BE APPLIED AND REVIEWED PERIODICALLY; ALL UPDATES MUST BE FOLLOWED TO ASSURE ACCOUNTABILITY.
2. CORRECT REPROCESSING STEPS AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE ARE WEAPONS AGAINST SSIS AND ASSURE PATIENT TRUSTWORTHINESS IN HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS.
3. PRACTICAL TRAINING IS A METHOD WHICH EMPOWERS THE TRAINEE AND IMPROVES KNOWLEDGE WITH MORE INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT ON PROMOTING IMPROVEMENT.
4. CORRECT UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF REPROCESSING STEPS AND GUIDELINES HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS ON OUTCOMES.
5. MEDICAL DEVICE INDUSTRIES, AS STAKEHOLDERS, SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN IMPROVEMENT PROCEDURES ANALYSIS AND THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PATIENT SAFETY.
6. REPROCESSING IS A REQUIREMENT THAT MUST FOLLOW GUIDELINES. IT WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS IN THE FIELD OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND AUDITS SHOULD BE PERFORMED TO UNDERSTAND CRITICALITIES AND IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES ON AN ORGANIZATIONAL BASIS.

SCAN ME

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AD-141037-01-CT_A-MDR