

Product Bulletin

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Date: **October 28, 2015**

RE: Reprocessing, storage and traceability of Endoscope Valves

This bulletin provides clarification related to the recent AAMI (ST91:2015) recommendations for tracking air/water and suction valves that should be linked to a specific endoscope.

Medivators actively encourages the use of disposable air/water, suction and biopsy valves such as those marketed under the DEFENDO brand name. This practice not only eliminates the need to clean and disinfect reusable valves, but also eliminates the need to track valves to a specific endoscope model and serial number and provides the highest level of infection prevention to the patient, through the use of new and disposable valves.

Medivators does not condone or endorse the use of the mesh accessory bags that are designed and used to disinfect air/water and suction valves to be used for the storage of these accessories. They are prone to holding water in the mesh, which could compromise the ability to maintain a disinfected state for the purposes of valve storage.

Medivators now markets a single use valve basket (part number 105025), which has been designed to meet the AAMI recommendations. This basket can be used to retain the meticulously cleaned valves, which is then attached to the light-guide tube of the endoscope prior to insertion into the basin of the AER. The valves are reprocessed along with the endoscope and subsequently removed and stored with the endoscope post-reprocessing. At the time of the procedure the basket is opened and the valves removed and fitted to the endoscope prior to disposing of the basket.

This process is repeated for each reprocessing cycle. The use of disposable valves would still be considered to be the 'gold standard' for infection prevention related to reprocessing of valves and accessories and providing the highest level of patient protection and safety.

If you have any questions related to this bulletin, please contact Medivators technical services department on 1-800 444 4729.

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Medivators Inc.
14605 28th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN
55447-4822 USA
Tel: +1.800.444.4729
Fax: +763.553.3387

Medivators BV
Sourethweg 11
6422PC Heerlen
The Netherlands
Tel: +31.45.5.471.471
Fax: +31.45.5.429.595

Cantel Medical Asia/Pacific Pte. Ltd.
1 A International Business Park
#05-01 Singapore 609933
Tel: +65.6227.9698
Fax: +65.6225.6848

Cantel Medical Devices (China) Co. Ltd.
Unit 804-805, Innov Tower Block A,
Hongmei Road, Xuhui 200233 Shanghai
Tel: +86 21 60161380
Fax: +86 21 61210913

www.medivators.com

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