

Inside the January Issue



Click the cover above for the online edition, or click below for the digital flip book.

January Cover Story

Joint Enterprise

**HPN 2015**  
INDUSTRY GUIDE

[Self Study Series](#)

[White Papers](#)

[Purchasing Connection](#)

[Resources](#)

[Show Calendar](#)

[HPN Hall of Fame](#)

[HPN Buyers Guides](#)

**SHOP HPN**  
FEATURED PRODUCTS  
INFORMATION LINK

[Classifieds](#)

[Issue Archives](#)

MONSTRIC

# HEALTHCARE PURCHASING NEWS

Follow @HPN\_Online

CLINICAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SUPPLY CHAIN LEADERSHIP

Like us on Facebook



**ONE BIG SHOW**  
ONE BIG OPPORTUNITY  
[aorn.org/surgicalexpo](http://aorn.org/surgicalexpo)

## INSIDE THE CURRENT ISSUE

January 2015

### CS Solutions

Questions can be sent to [editor@hpnonline.com](mailto:editor@hpnonline.com), called in to Valerie Dimond at HPN: (941) 927-9345 ext.202 or mailed to: HPN CS Questions, 2477 Stickney Point Road, Suite 315B, Sarasota, FL 34231. Names and hospital identification will be withheld upon request.



### Handling scopes, Ebola instruments, wet sterilization packs, EEG electrodes

by Ray Taurasi

**Q** I am the clinical director for a very busy multispecialty surgery center. To date, our primary services have included eye, ear, nose and throat (EENT), urology, podiatry and cosmetic surgery. In a few months we will be adding gastrointestinal (GI) to the list, which is an area I have very little knowledge of and am in need of some direction. Where might I find the most appropriate information on regulations and standards for GI? We just inherited a scope storage cabinet and I am not sure of the appropriate place to house it. I would appreciate any suggestions and/or direction you could offer.

**A** The following professional entities have published guidelines, standards and educational materials, which will provide you with the required knowledge and assistance you are seeking:

- Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation; [www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org); 4301 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 301, Arlington, VA 22203; 703-525-4890.
- The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc; [www.sgna.org](http://www.sgna.org); 330 H. Wabash Ave., suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60611; 800-245-7462.
- Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses; [www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org); 2170 South Parker Rd., suite 400, Denver, CO 80231; 800-755-2676.

Regarding the placement of your scope storage cabinet, it should be situated in a restricted, clean, controlled environment and, depending on the type of storage cabinet it is, there may be special electrical and ventilation connection requirements. The information you garner from the professional organizations

### January 2015 Featured advertisers:

- [Access Scientific](#)
- [BioDerm Inc.](#)
- [Bioquell Inc.](#)
- [Cook Medical](#)
- [Dale Medical Products Inc.](#)
- [Elcam Medical](#)
- [Excelsior Medical](#)
- [Halyard Health](#)
- [Healthmark Industries Co.](#)
- [Healthtrust Purchasing Group](#)
- [Innovative Sterilization](#)
- [Key Surgical](#)
- [Medical World Americas](#)
- [Metrex](#)
- [Olympus America](#)
- [oneSOURCE](#)
- [Parker Laboratories](#)
- [PDI](#)
- [Ruhof](#)
- [Veritiv](#)

[Advertise](#)[About Us](#)[Contact Us](#)[Subscribe](#)

 **Sign up for our  
Email Newsletter**

Privacy by  **SafeSubscribe**<sup>SM</sup>  
For Email Marketing you can trust

[HOME](#)

KSR Publishing, Inc.  
Copyright © 2015

previously listed should help you develop proper protocols for the care, handling and processing of endoscopes and accessories. You will also find guidelines and recommendations for environmental control, processing equipment and facility essentials, safety and the appropriate work flow.

I also highly recommend that you obtain a copy of "The Basics of Flexible Endoscope Reprocessing" published by Sterile Processing University, LLC 59 Allerton Rd., Lebanon, NJ 08833; 908-735-8944. This would be an excellent educational resource for you and your staff.

Two more essential sources of education that provide a plethora of educational materials, videos, publications, seminars and various technical and managerial credentialing services:

- International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel's Management (IAHCSMM); [www.iahcsmm.org](http://www.iahcsmm.org); 55 West Wacker Dr., Suite 501, Chicago, IL 60601; 800-962-8274.
- The Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) [www.sterileprocessing.org/cbspd.htm](http://www.sterileprocessing.org/cbspd.htm); 148 Main Street, Suite C-1, Lebanon, NJ, 08833; 908-236-0530.

**Q** We have special processing and handling protocols for Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (CJD), including extended sterilization cycles. I think we should also be implementing more rigid decontamination and sterilization parameters for supplies, equipment and instruments used on suspected Ebola patients. Why is this need overlooked?

**A** Ebola is like many other viruses that we deal with in the healthcare and public environments every day. The survival rate of the Ebola virus on inanimate surfaces is short lived — from seconds to a couple of minutes — and easily eliminated and/or destructed by disinfectants, bleach, and chlorinated water.

The December 2014 issue of *Healthcare Purchasing News* had extensive coverage and related articles on Ebola decontamination, which can be found at <http://www.hpnonline.com/inside/2014-12/1412-CSsolutions.html> and <http://www.hpnonline.com/inside/2014-12/December2014.html>.

**Q** Can a pack or sterilization container be used if it is wet on the inside?

**A** Wrapped packages or instrument sets should not be used if moisture is found on the inside, as there is no evidence to support that the moisture inside is sterile. Moisture can act as a source of wicking which could provide a conduit for the passage of external pathogens into the package contaminating the contents. The same holds true for sterilization containers, unless the container has been validated and cleared by FDA qualifying the sterility of internal moisture and the device's ability to maintain sterility under such circumstances. The only exception would be for immediate-use steam sterilization (IUSS) performed according to standards and proper aseptic technique.

**Q** We are being asked to begin reprocessing electroencephalogram (EEG) cables that are used by our sleep lab. Our Infection Control Nurse is insisting that we should sterilize them because the electrodes are placed on the scalp which is abraded to allow for better connectivity. The manufacturer's instructions for use (IFU) only require disinfection and provide no sterilization parameters. What is the standard of practice for handling these devices?

**A** Most often the electrodes are a single-use disposable item attached to the electrode cables, which are usually placed in high-level disinfection (HDL) between each patient use. If you are using reusable electrodes the manufacturer must provide IFUs for the terminal process to be employed between each use (HDL or sterilization). According to the Spaulding classification for how medical devices should be terminally handled, electrodes would be classified as a semi-critical device (one which comes in contact with non-intact skin). In such cases, HDL would be an acceptable process although sterilization might be preferred.

**HPN**

*Ray Taurasi is Eastern Regional Director of Clinical Sales and Services for [Healthmark Industries](#). His healthcare career spans over three decades as an administrator, educator, technologist, consultant and international speaker. He is a member of AORN, AHA, SGNA, AAMI, former president of IAHCSMM and*

*was a faculty member at numerous colleges teaching in the divisions of business administration and health sciences.*

