

<i>Distribution:</i>	
International Distributors	✓
International Management	✓
US Clinical Specialists	✓
US Customer Service	✓
US Field Sales	✓
US Technical and Field Service	✓

Date: **September 24, 2009**

RE: Detergent Use in Medivators' Automated Endoscope Reprocessors

Multi-society (SGNA, ASGE, ACG, AORN) guidelines and endoscope manufacturers' instructions mandate thorough manual cleaning prior to disinfection by either automated or manual methods. These requirements are almost universally adopted. The manual cleaning process includes mechanical cleansing of the various components of the endoscope with a detergent and water solution followed by a rinse in clean water. The action described above should negate the requirements for using detergent in the endoscope reprocessor.

In reality, there are many other factors that will influence the use of detergent in the reprocessor.

Facility protocols may mandate the use of detergent in every reprocessing cycle even though the benefit may be difficult to quantify. Many European countries require endoscopes to be reprocessed in an AER prior to use on the first patient; however, this policy does not include the manual cleaning process before disinfection is carried out. In this instance there is a benefit to using detergent, not for the cleaning effect, but for the purposes of 'wetting' the channel system of the endoscope. There is a distinct benefit from the surfactant in the detergent in ensuring that the internal surfaces of the channel system are completely wet prior to the introduction of the disinfectant. This 'wetting' ensures complete contact between the disinfectant and the endoscope surfaces, as well as removing the potential for air locks within the endoscope channels.

Assuming the facility requires the use of a detergent, Medivators recommends the use of a medical grade, low-foaming, neutral pH detergent in the Advantage, DSD, SSD and CER range of endoscope reprocessors. The specifications for the detergent selected should also confirm that the product is bacteriostatic to reduce the chance of microbiological growth in the detergent. Consideration should be given as to how the detergent is stored in the AER reservoir -- diluted or undiluted, as many detergents lose their bacteriostatic properties once diluted.

Medivators recommends the use of Intercept detergent in the Advantage, DSD, SSD and CER endoscope reprocessors. Intercept is a low-foaming, neutral pH, medical grade detergent specifically formulated for use in the cleaning of endoscopes. Intercept is bacteriostatic, and highly effective in removing preteinaceous residues and biofilm buildup from endoscope channel systems. Intercept also has a very low viscosity rating of 2.7 centipois which allows it to be used in an undiluted form in the DSD, SSD and Advantage reservoirs, without causing blockage in the smaller endoscope channels.



In summary, the decision to use detergent should be based on the clinical working practices of individual facilities. If the guidelines and policies of professional bodies are strictly adhered to with respect to the manual cleaning of endoscopes, there may be no need to use detergent in the AER. However, if endoscopes are being reprocessed which are taken directly from storage without manual cleaning, detergent use is recommended. If it is decided to use detergent routinely, careful consideration should be given to whether the product is diluted or not, per the manufacturer's Direction for Use.

The choice of detergent should be made using all of the parameters outlined above, taking into consideration the advantages and disadvantages of detergent use in your clinical environment.

A copy of this product bulletin is available on the Medivators website located at www.minntech.com/medivators by selecting "Medivators Reprocessing Systems" followed by "Resource Center". If you have any questions regarding this product bulletin, please contact Medivators Customer Support at 1-800-444-4729.