PRODUCT BULLETIN

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Date: **November 28, 2011**

RE: **Rapicide and Rapicide PA efficacy against *Cryptosporidium parvum***

We have received several customer calls on Cryptosporidium and whether Medivators high-level disinfectants are efficacious against this gastrointestinal protozoal species. Both Rapicide glutaraldehyde and Rapicide PA peracetic acid will adequately remove this organism from endoscopes.

Cryptosporidium parvum (*C. parvum*) or commonly known as "Crypto", is a parasite that causes diarrheal disease. Infected patients can transfer this organism to endoscopes during procedures. A study was performed on many germicides to evaluate the effectiveness against this disease causing organism. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* reported that all processes tested inactivated 3 logs or greater of *C. parvum.* The germicides included active components based on peracetic acid, sodium hypochlorite, phenol, glutaraldehyde, and ortho-phthalaldehyde (OPA). The conclusion by UNC School of Medicine is "most high-level disinfectants used on endoscopes have limited efficacy against *C. parvum.* However, the infectivity of *C. parvum* on dry surfaces decreases rapidly." Therefore, current cleaning and high-level disinfection guidelines are adequate to prevent nosocomial transmission of *C. parvum* by means of endoscopes[1].

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has also said that although most disinfectants have limited efficacy, "current cleaning and disinfection practices appear satisfactory to prevent healthcare-associate transmission[2]." Then state "endoscopes are unlikely to be an important vehicle for transmitting *C.parvum* because the results of bacterial studies indicate mechanical cleaning will remove approximately 10^4 organisms and drying results in rapid loss of *C. parvum* viability."

Both Rapicide glutaraldehyde and Rapicide PA peracetic acid high-level disinfectants have sporicidal activity(spores are the hardest bacterial challenge to germicides). Proper cleaning procedures, combined with use of Rapicide or Rapicide PA according to the manufacturer's guidelines followed by thorough drying of an endoscope will greatly reduce the possibility of transference of *Cryptosporidium parvum.*

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin please contact the Customer Support group at 1-800-444-4729.

References

1. Rutala, W.A. et. al. Inactivation of *Cryptosporidium parvum* oocyst infectivity by disinfection and sterilization processes. Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. May; 49 (5): 605-11,1999.
2. CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008. W. A. Rutala, Ph. D, M.P.H., D. J. Weber, M.D., M.P.H, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC)