

Product Bulletin

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Date: **October 6, 2017**

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™ Valve 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.

The use of disposable valves is considered the ‘gold standard’ for infection prevention related to reprocessing of valves and accessories and providing the highest level of patient protection and safety.

Medivators also markets a single use valve basket (part number 105025), which is 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.

Medivators’ mesh accessory bags are designed to contain endoscope accessories, like reusable air/water and suction valves in the basin of the AER during high level disinfection and can be used for valve storage. Specific guidelines should be followed to ensure valves are kept together with a named endoscope as a unique set. Additionally, storing reusable valves in the mesh bags within the cassette in the ENDODRY™ Storage and Drying System is an acceptable practice.

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

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