

BECKER'S Clinical Quality & Infection Control



- Print Issues
- E-Weeklies
- Clinical Quality
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Whitepapers
- Multimedia
- About Us
- Lists

ASC Quality & Infection Control

[E-mail](#) | [Print](#)

Tools of the Trade: Instrument Stringers for Reprocessing

Written by Matt Smith, Marketing Analyst, Healthmark Industries | April 13, 2012

Social Sharing

0

Proper reprocessing of surgical instruments is an ongoing challenge for central supply departments in healthcare facilities. CSSD professionals constantly look for ways to be more efficient and simplify the process of instrument cleansing and sterilization. One of the most innovative tools created for the CSSD is the "surgical instrument stringer," an easy-to-use tool to prepare instruments for sterilization.

One simply places the stringer in the base and strings one instrument upon another. When full, close-off the stringer, lift it out of the base and place in use.

Traditionally, stringers have been used primarily in the preparation of instruments inside of a tray for sterilization. These stringers usually are 2 to 3 inches in width. More recently, however, stringers are finding their way to the "dirty-side" of the CSSD. The Association of Advancement of Medical Instrumentation stresses in ST79 section 7.5.6 the importance of disassembly of multi-part instruments and the need to place all hinged instruments in an open state to ensure all surfaces are exposed for effective cleaning. Stringers used in decontamination are typically 5 to 6 inches in width to maximize the openness of the instruments for the spray action of the washer.

These have been effective tools, but did create the need for double inventory of stringers — until recently. A new type of product was introduced to the healthcare industry that made surgical instrument reprocessing even more efficient, the "adjustable stringer." This new tool adjusts to the size of instruments for more effective cleaning of hard to reach areas containing bioburden, and can also be adjusted to the optimal width for placement of instruments inside a tray for terminal sterilization.

The new adjustable instrument stringers are just one of many tools for effective instrument reprocessing. Remember to always follow manufacturer instructions and test your mechanical washers at least once a week in compliance with AAMI and Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses guidelines.

Matt Smith is the marketing analyst for Healthmark Industries. A veteran of marketing, he has over 12 years experience that additionally includes automotive and energy efficiency programs. Mr. Smith graduated from Grand Valley State University with bachelors of science in Advertising/PR. He is a former collegiate athlete that still enjoys playing baseball, going to the gym and being outdoors.

More Articles on Reprocessing:

- [Healthmark Industries Launches Adjustable Stringer](#)
- [4 Risk Factors for Immediate Use Steam Sterilization](#)

© Copyright ASC COMMUNICATIONS 2012. Interested in LINKING to or REPRINTING this content? View our policies by clicking here.

To receive the free *Becker's Operating Room Clinical Quality & Infection Control E-Weekly*, which focuses on clinical quality, infection control, patient safety and accreditation, [click here](#).

Latest Articles

- [What do ACOs Really Mean for ASCs? Q&A With Ken Arvin, Esq. of Sheridan Healthcare](#)
- [Patient Safety Tool: Joint Commission Guide to Reducing SSIs](#)

search...

Becker's ASC Review 20th Annual Conference

87 Sessions on Improving the Profitability of your ASC

130+ ASC Executive & Physician Speakers

Networking Opps & Educational Credits

Oct 24-26, 2013 - Swissotel, Chicago

[Click here to register](#)

Keynotes include Bob Woodward, Rick Pitino, Bonnie Blair & David Feherty

New! Click Here to Access the New Patient Safety Tools & Resources Database

Channels

- [ASC Turnarounds: Ideas to Improve Performance & Benchmarking](#)
- [ASC Transactions & Valuation Issues](#)
- [Anesthesia](#)
- [GI & Endoscopy-Driven ASCs](#)
- [Orthopedic, Spine & Pain Management-Driven ASCs](#)
- [Pain Management](#)
- [ASC Coding, Billing & Collections](#)
- [ASC Supply Chain & Materials Management](#)
- [ASC Accreditation, Licensure & Medicare Certification](#)
- [ASC Quality & Infection Control](#)
- [Lists](#)
- [Ophthalmology](#)
- [ASC Industry Jobs](#)
- [Health Information Technology](#)

Healthcare Valuation VMG Health stands alone as the leading

Connecticut Orthopaedic Society Names Congressmen Honorary Members

Implant Registries Yield Patient Safety, Cost Benefits

Living Well Medical Adds Dr. Randall Ehrlich to Staff

- A** [10 States With Lowest Healthcare Expenditures](#) 2 comments
- [FDA Highlights Mattress Cover Infection Risk](#) 2 comments
- [ASCA Runs Incredible Conference in Boston](#) 2 comments
- [8 Reasons for Surplus Surgical Supplies in Hospitals and ...](#) 1 comment

- AROUND THE WEB** [What's this?](#)
- [10 Reasons Why We're Thankful for Our Cats](#) Pet360
 - [Inside the Madoff Mansion: A Steal at \\$4 Million](#) The New York Times
 - [Jim Rogers: The One Lie That Will Bring Down America](#) MoneyMorning
 - [Miley Cyrus' Itty Bitty Workout Outfits](#) Zimbio

0 comments



Leave a message...

Oldest Community

Share [icon] [icon]

No one has commented yet.

[RSS icon] Comment feed [Email icon] Subscribe via email

SIMPLE. SMART. SECURE.

At last, a web-based compliance document management system just for the healthcare industry.

REQUEST A FREE DEMO

ASC
pro

Is your office **too busy** to collect *outstanding A/R*?

By outsourcing your billing needs to in2itive Business Solutions, you'll eliminate missed billing opportunities and create a more robust bottom line.

Call Jocelyn at in2itive today to learn more
913.344.7837

in2itive
www.in2itive.org

DELIVERING MODERN CARE

www.medicalfacilitiescorp.ca
1-877-402-7162

mfc

healthcare valuation firm, www.vmghealth.com

Ambulatory Surgical Centers of America Experts in turnaround of unprofitable ASCs www.ASCOA.com

Multi-Specialty ASC Blue Chip develops and manages productive and hugely profitable ASCs www.BlueChipSurgical.com

10 Most-Read Articles

- 30 ASCs With 20+ Years of History
- Making Hand Hygiene Personal: Caregiver-Specific Data to Improve Compliance
- 8 Trends Shaping the Present & Future of Gastroenterology
- Outlook for ASC Development & Transactions: 8 Key Trends
- Keeping Up With the Rapidly Changing Field of Gastroenterology: Q&A With Dr. William Katkov of Saint John's Health Center
- 6 Biggest Reasons Provider Business Strategy Will Fail
- 5 ASC Leaders on How They Improve the Patient Experience
- 5 Ways for ASCs to Use Benchmarking to the

Fullest

9. 4 Ways for ASCs to Save Real Dollars on Human Resources

10. Protecting Your Practice's Online Identity: 4 Things ASC Physicians Should Know

The 20th Annual Becker's ASC Review Conference

**BECKER'S
ASC
REVIEW**

Focus on improving the profitability of your ASC
Educational credits available

[Click here to register - limited space](#)

Oct. 24-26, 2013 - Chicago - Swissotel

The 11th Annual Orthopedic, Spine and Pain Management-Driven ASC Conference

**BECKER'S
ASC
REVIEW**

Examine how to manage challenging clinical, business and financial issues with 125 key specialty physicians and industry leaders.

June 13-15, 2013 • Chicago, Illinois

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Conferences