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Global NEWS

neodisher®

Solutions for Off-Site Reprocessing of Medical Devices in Canada

Medicare is a term that refers to Canada's publicly funded health care system. Instead of having a single national plan, Canada has 13 provincial and territorial health care insurance plans. Under this system, all Canadian residents have reasonable access to medically necessary hospital and physician services without paying out-of-pocket. Roles and responsibilities for health care services are shared between provincial and territorial governments and the federal government.

At the beginning of 2020, SteriPro and Dr. Weigert started a partnership to improve the reprocessing processes of medical devices in Canada. SteriPro operates the largest central sterilisation facility in Canada and is the only Canadian company that offers off-site reprocessing of medical devices. It is located in Toronto, Ontario. SteriPro provides its services to hospitals, surgery centers and doctor's surgeries, which either do not have the infrastructure for in-house reprocessing or have no contingency solution in case of an emergency break-down of the internal reprocessing operation. Medical devices are either owned by the healthcare provider or an implant vendor. The medical devices are picked up and delivered to SteriPro's off-site reprocessing facility by SteriPro. Customers can also select a turn-key service solution, which includes the use of the medical device, which is owned by SteriPro, in addition to the reprocessing service. Additionally, SteriPro has extensive experience with validation work, which is offered to medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies through their sister company SteriLabs.

Challenges and Solutions

SteriPro continuously strives for operational excellence and efficiency improvements. They identified and discussed with Dr. Weigert two key target areas for process improvements:

1. Some customers do not have the internal resources to pre-clean the medical devices before pick-up. While SteriPro tried to minimize the time period between pick-up and reprocessing of the medical devices, the time gap was still up to 72 hours if the customer facility was located in remote areas of Canada. As a result, organic contaminations could dry as stubborn residue on the medical instrument, which is very hard to remove at the off-site reprocessing facility. Also, those contaminations promoted the corrosion of the surgical instruments and rigid endoscopes.

2. Even when the instruments are pre-cleaned manually at the customer facility, the wet storage of the surgical instruments and the rigid endoscopes in the transportation containers exposed the medical devices to corrosion risks, potentially reducing the life cycle.

SteriPro and Dr. Weigert identified the product neodisher PreStop as a solution, which SteriPro now recommends to all their customers for improving the efficiency of the cleaning process and the extension of the life cycle of the medical devices. neodisher PreStop is a wetting and cleaning agent that keeps the instruments moist and protects them from corrosion for up to 72 hours.

Take-Away

SteriPro Canada and Dr. Weigert now partner on several projects to improve the efficiency of off-site reprocessing procedures so that more value can be provided to healthcare customers in Canada. Recently, SteriPro replaced their previously used pre-soak and manual detergent with neodisher MultiZym. A trial confirmed that neodisher MultiZym provides equal or better cleaning results at much lower dosage rates, significantly reducing packaging waste while helping SteriPro to achieve their corporate environmental goals.

For more information about SteriPro, visit www.SteriProCanada.com.

DR. WEIGERT
Systematic Hygiene

Robot-Assisted Surgery – Challenges for Reprocessing:

Partially Strong Contaminations, Encrustations

Surgical procedures using robot-assisted technology are gentle and less traumatic for patients, avoiding the postoperative pain that occurs after operations performed with conventional methods. The possibility of extremely precise surgery in robot-assisted procedures allows muscles and tissue to be identified accurately and protected. The very small surgical incisions result in less blood loss, faster healing processes, lower risk of infection and only tiny scars.

Modern technology enables the surgeon to make scaled, refined hand movements, with larger movements translating into small, very precise movements of the instruments. Involuntary hand gestures such as shaking or jerky movements are balanced out.

The most demanding task: reprocessing

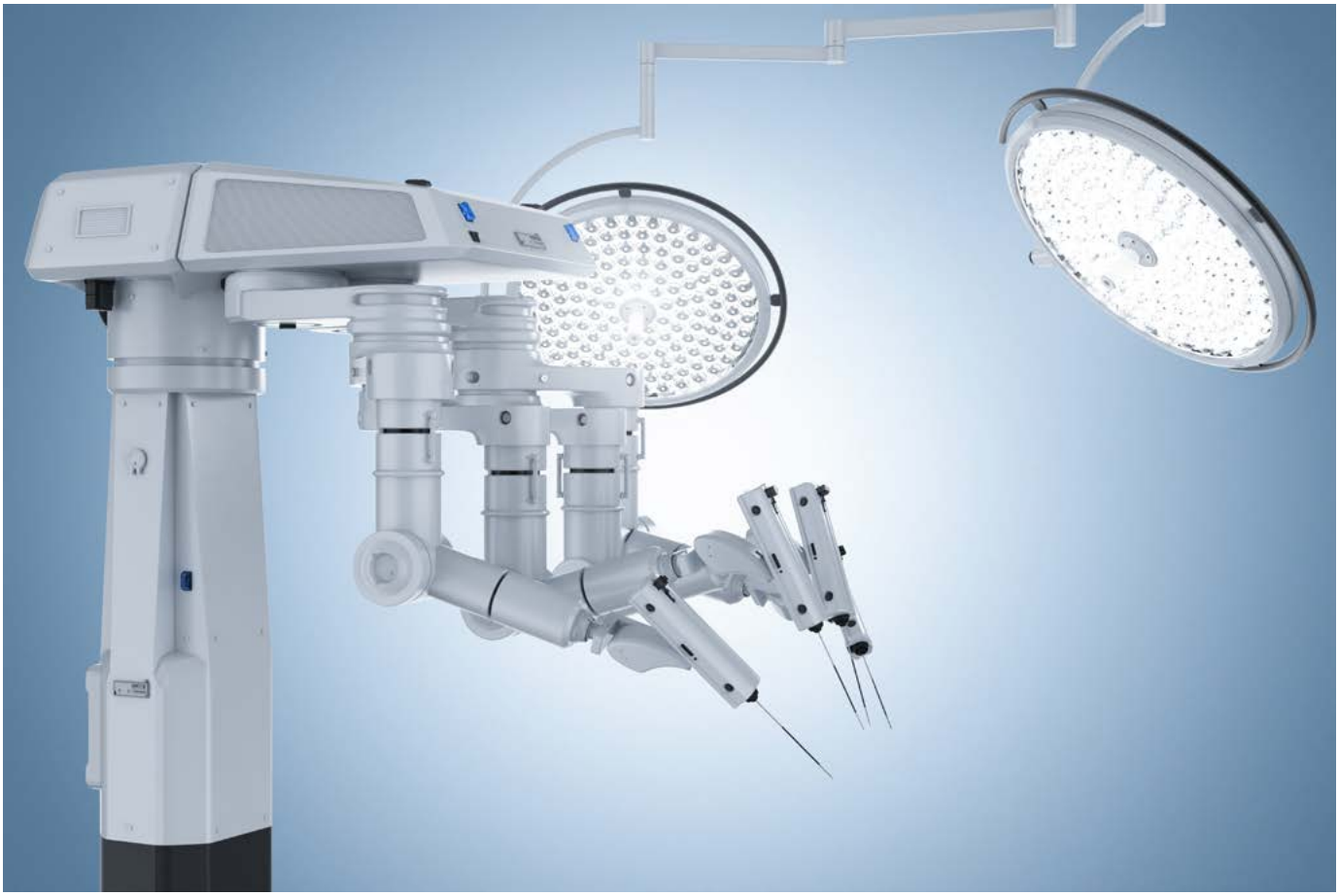
While the delicate nature and complexity of the instruments improves the operation and the healing processes, it also makes reprocessing more difficult after the procedure.

In particular, the inner shaft part of the instruments must be treated with cleaning agents with good self-cleaning capacity, both in manual pre-treatment and during automated reprocessing, in order to achieve perfect results.

As an enzymatic, mildly alkaline cleaning agent, neodisher MediClean forte is the right choice for all cleaning steps. That includes the flooding of instruments for internal cleaning, the insertion of instruments into the immersion bath, ultrasonic pre-treatment and, of course, the automated reprocessing process. In particular, our laboratory tests found an improvement in the removal of blood residues compared with pH-neutral enzymatic cleaning agents. Optimised cleaning is a requirement for the success of subsequent steps such as thermal disinfection and steam sterilisation and thus makes reprocessing more reliable.

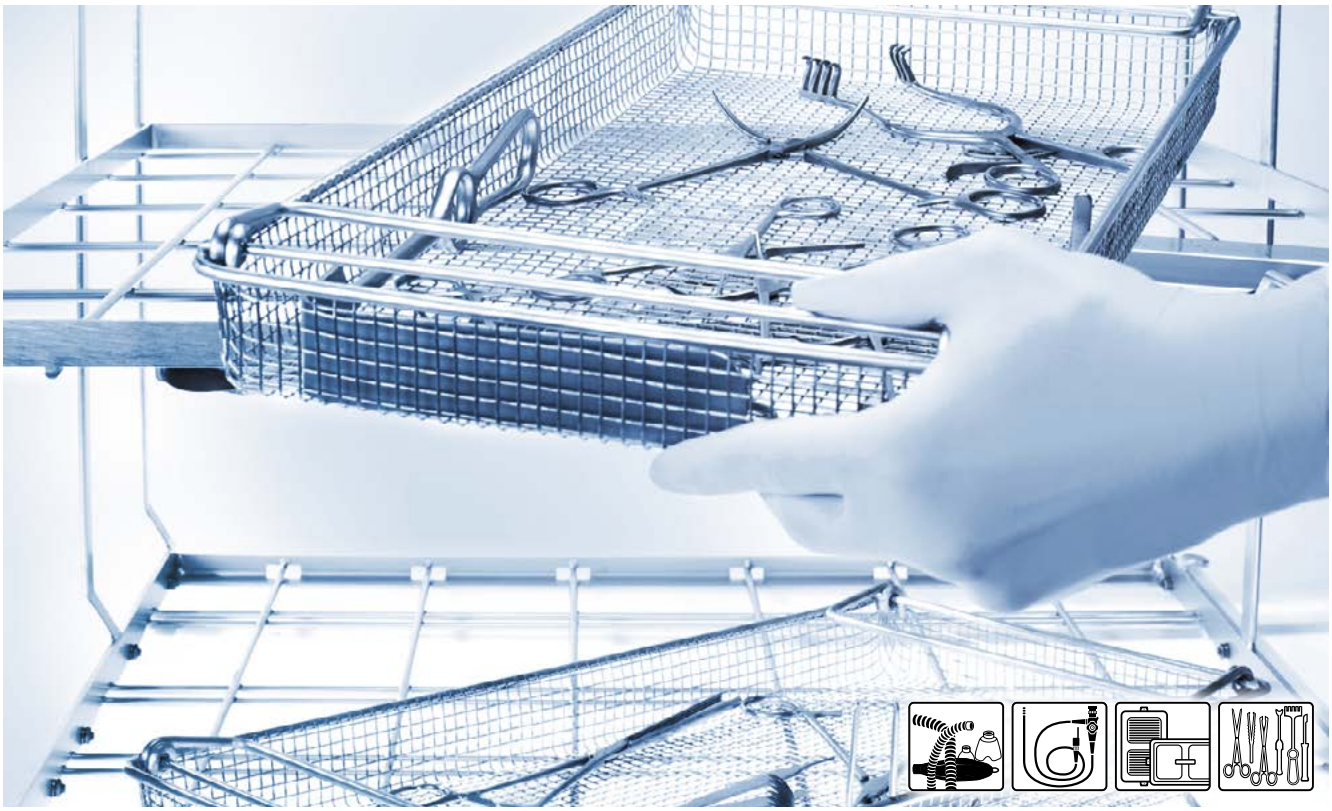
Best choice: neodisher® MediClean forte

As neodisher MediClean forte is suitable for both automated cleaning and manual pre-treatment steps, its use standardises and optimises the whole reprocessing procedure. Perfectly reprocessed instruments are the basis for a successful operation.



BEST PRODUCTS

neodisher® MediZym – Liquid – pH-neutral Detergent for the Reprocessing of Thermostable and Thermolabile Instruments



Material-compatible cleaning with enzymes and supporting components. Residues of dried and denatured blood are removed.

Main field of application:
- Automated cleaning of surgical instruments, anaesthesia equipment, flexible endoscopes, containers and other medical equipment

Performance spectrum:
- Removes residues of dried and denatured blood
- Suitable for stainless steel, instrument steel, light metals, glass, the usual plastics, the materials of anaesthesia equipment and flexible endoscopes

Special properties:
- High degree of material protection -› even sensitive materials such as anodised aluminium are compatible with neodisher MediZym solutions.
- pH-neutral basis with enzymes and other cleaning adjuvants

Application and dosage:
neodisher MediZym can be used in washer disinfectors as well as in immersion and ultrasonic baths. The dosing amount depends among other things on the respective field of application and the individual degree of contamination of the instruments to be reprocessed.

LIVE CONGRESS

WFHSS Congress in Geneva 17–20 November 2021

The first step into our new/old business world: After nearly 20 months without participation in an international presence event, Dr. Weigert will have a booth at the World Federation for Hospital Sterilisation Sciences (WFHSS) 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland. This year we will not be present at either MEDICA or Arab Health, and we hope this decision to go to the WFHSS will be the first step to return to events so that we might be able to leave the pandemic behind us.

We know for a fact that many of you, our partners, will not be able to travel to Europe due to travel restrictions or quarantines in place in your home countries. We are truly sorry that we will not be able to meet all of you as in times past, and we will continue offering webinars and web events to keep our contact and communication on-going.

For all of you attending WFHSS: See you there!

IMPRINT

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Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions as to what you are interested in reading about. We will gladly take your ideas into consideration.

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You can find the edition at hand as well as further flyers, prospectuses, product information, and an overview of our international retail partners at www.drweigert.com.

Into the Future with New Energy

Is there any good news in these tough times during the pandemic?

Yes, of course there is – we at Dr. Weigert have switched entirely to green energy, saving about 720 tons of carbon dioxide this year. To illustrate the scale of this, consider the fact that burning 1 litre of petrol produces about 2.3 kilograms of carbon dioxide. This means that switching to green energy at Dr. Weigert saves the same amount of carbon dioxide as would be generated burning 313,000 litres of petrol. By avoiding these carbon dioxide emissions, Dr. Weigert Hamburg, Germany, is now carbon neutral in terms of its energy consumption.