The future of Endoscopy Storage

The Gastroenterological Society of Australia (GESA) revealed its Consensus Statements on infection control in Endoscopy during Australian Gastroenterology Week on the Gold Coast on August 22.

The statements follow several overseas outbreaks of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) and were created by a committee of experts in a bid to offer advice on best practice. The Consensus Statements also provide a clear indication of what will be included in the forthcoming updated Infection Control in Endoscopy Guidelines.

Of the nine statements in the ‘Infection Control in Endoscopy Consensus Statements on Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae’ document, three directly relate to and solidify the cutting-edge work that Smartline Machinery has been undertaking in the area of Endoscopy Storage.

PROOF OF PROCESS

Statement 4 states: “Quality control is fundamental to the delivery of efficient and safe endoscopic procedures, and incorporates proof of process.”

This is something Smartline Machinery has been striving for with the development and advancement of our RFID Scope Data Monitoring and Display System which tracks and records the full washing and storage cycle of each individual scope from washer to patient.

Each scope stored in our RotaScope or SlidaScope Endoscopy Cabinets has an individual RFID Scope Tag which is used to track, record and report on the scope’s status and history. This extremely high level of record keeping and accountability is something Smartline is very passionate about and proud to be pioneering. We are proud to offer washer to patient validation.

AIR DRYING

The GESA Consensus Statements also reaffirm the use of forced air-drying cabinets, like Smartline’s Rotascope and SlidaScope Cabinets which utilise HEPA-filtered Air Drying.

Statement 7a reads: “All endoscopic instruments, except those in sterile packaging, should be stored in TGA-approved forces air drying cabinets.” Smartline’s TGA number is ARTG 140018.

Statement 7b states: “Endoscopes stored in TGA-approved forced-air drying cabinets may be used for a period of up to 7 days without reprocessing, unless otherwise stated by the manufacturer.”

Smartline’s Data Management System assists this with countdown timers for each scope and printed scope validation labels with ‘Expiry Date and Time’ information.

APPROVED STORAGE

Smartline’s clients will also be pleased to learn that many of Smartline’s existing cabinets can be upgraded with Air Drying and Data etc to meet these standards at a much lower cost than investing in a completely new cabinet/s. In the opening speech for the Consensus Statements announcement at GESA AGW 2017, Associate Professor Benedict Devereaux said compliance for all flexible endoscopes must be reached in forced air-drying cabinets by January 2022.

For more information on upgrades and/or how our products can help you achieve best practice, phone the Smartline Sales Team on +61 7 5478 9977 or email sales@smartlinemachinery.com.