

NEWS RELEASE
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Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust replaces all glutaraldehyde-based disinfection units with Tristel chlorine instrument sterilants

With growing concern about the risks posed to clinical staff by exposure to glutaraldehyde-based disinfectants, Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust (Enfield, UK) has replaced all glutaraldehyde with chlorine dioxide instrument sterilants from The Tristel Company (Snailwell, UK).

The recent withdrawal from the market of certain glutaraldehyde-based products has forced the pace of change for many people, who are now faced with a radical rethink of their disinfection procedures, especially for those instruments such as flexible endoscopes, that are unable to withstand steam sterilisation and autoclaving procedures.

Tristel's chlorine dioxide sterilants offer a number of benefits: a safer alternative to glutaraldehyde; a more effective biocide, which sterilises rather than disinfects; and fully compatible with the Trust's existing washer systems.

"The adoption of Tristel sterilants meant the end of exposure to hazardous chemicals, no dilution or manual preparation of disinfectants and no disposal issues," said Debra Grant, gastroenterology nurse practitioner at Chase Farm Hospital. "Our experience and the weight of microbiological evidence in favour of Tristel were such that in the endoscopy unit we immediately switched to using the solutions and at the same time stopped using glutaraldehyde."

Since the contact time with chlorine dioxide is considerably less than that recommended for glutaraldehyde, Chase Farm Hospital was able to improve turnaround time between procedures, ensuring that the number of patients examined is not limited by endoscope availability.

The Tristel sterilants are used not only in the dedicated endoscopy department at Chase Farm Hospital where most of the endoscopy work is carried out, but also in main theatres where emergency procedures are undertaken, and in a variety of outpatient departments. At Barnet Hospital, Tristel is now used in the Day Case Unit in theatres and in other departments.

More...

Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust replaces all glutaraldehyde-based disinfection units with Tristel chlorine instrument sterilants.../2

“We feel confident that the move has not only benefited all those working on the endoscopy teams, but the introduction of a sterilant has also enhanced patient safety,” said Grant. “Any initial reservations about changing from the well established glutaraldehyde methods were quickly set aside as the effectiveness of the Tristel sterilants became apparent and the benefits to operators were rapidly appreciated.”

Ends

Picture: High resolution image available from Trish Appleton, Kapler Communications Ltd quote reference TRI/PRL/o2o trish@kapleronline.com



About The Tristel Company

Tristel is an aldehyde-free sterilant that can meet all the chemical decontamination needs of a hospital, safely and economically, and has become one of the most widely-used sterilants in UK hospitals.

Tristel products are emerging as the leading replacements for aldehyde-based disinfectants, which because of health and environmental concerns are being withdrawn in many countries.

In England, Scotland and Wales, the Tristel Company markets its products directly to National Health Service and private sector hospitals, GP practices, dental and veterinary establishments. Tristel sterilants are manufactured in an ISO 9002 accredited plant in Kent, England. In overseas markets, Tristel is marketed through distributors.

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