

CASE STUDY

Cross Infection Control: Pure and Simple

Advancing decontamination in dental practices



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Moving away from bottled pure water

The dental clinic at Aldershot Centre for Health, overseen by Surrey PCT and Hampshire NHS Trust, identified a need to move away from bottled pure water to increase quality for their ultrasonic baths and sterilisers. Installing the ELGA BIOPURE 15 system on site resolved the problems faced with bottled water by supplying a reliable constant source of ultra-pure water.

The health department's new best practice guide, HTM01-05 Decontamination in primary care dental practices, aims to raise the quality of surgical instrument decontamination in primary care dental services.

Effective cleaning removes any organic material or adherent dental materials left on instruments which might cause corrosion, lead to cross-infection from patient to practice staff, most importantly, inhibit thermal disinfection and sterilisation. HTM01-05 focuses on advancing good practice, and that means that both the volumes and the quality requirements of water used to supply washer disinfectors, autoclaves, ultra sonic baths, sinks (for manual rinsing) and dental lines is likely to increase.

As a result, the traditional approaches of generating purified water with a small distillation unit or purchasing large quantities of bottled water will become less viable. ELGA have developed a compact water purification system that is easy to use and maintain and meets the new guidelines.



The unit supplies purified water directly to the water disinfecter



Dispensing gun for manual filling

CASE STUDY

Challenge & Solution

Typical of ELGA's dental customers is the dental clinic at the new Aldershot Centre for Health. The new centre houses GPs, dental services, clinicians, counsellors, community nurses, army doctors and a pharmacy. Although part of the Hampshire NHS Trust, the facility is hosted by Surrey PCT, which means that it comes under the care of Jane Powell, Surrey's clinical director for dental services.

Capital programme manager, Gary White commented:

"The new clinic has two bench-top sterilisers and a washer disinfectant. The washer disinfectant is supplied with mains water for pre-wash and wash cycles and purified water for the final rinse. The sterilisers also need high quality water. The quality of the bottled sterile water deteriorates quite rapidly once opened and is expensive. Producing purified water on site solves these problems."

"ELGA has a long history of working with the NHS and a great reputation in endoscopy, so I knew their unit would be reliable and would more than meet current and impending decontamination guidelines."

Jane Powell, Surrey's Clinical director of Dental Services commented:

"In the past our dental clinics used to buy bottled sterile water to supply their ultrasonic baths and sterilisers. I was determined to get away from the storage problems, so I asked our capital programme manager, Gary White, to find an alternative."

ELGA's solution was to offer ELGA BIOPURE 15 that has a 25 litre wrap around reservoir and can supply up to 15 l/h of purified water along with a comprehensive service package.

The BIOPURE 15 incorporates all the necessary purification steps in a single small cabinet that is simply connected to a mains or softened water supply and delivers purified water directly to the washer disinfectant or, via its integral dispensing gun, for manual filling of autoclaves, ultrasonic baths, inks and dental lines. Even in a new facility, space is at a premium and the compact BIOPURE 15 is designed to fit a conventional dental cabinet or can be wall mounted or installed in a standard base unit freeing up valuable bench space.

Maintenance of the BIOPURE 15, including changing the treatment cartridge, is minimal and can be undertaken by practice staff. It has an easy to use semi-automatic sanitisation sequence which, when employed regularly, prevents any microbiological build-up.



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