

CS CONNECTION

Excerpted from...

Patient outcomes hinge on CS quality assurance

by Julie E. Williamson

Manufacturer instructions get streamlined

Best and his team's focus on creating order and organization didn't end with equipment and supplies, however. Recognizing the critical importance of maintaining a comprehensive collection of manufacturer recommendations and instructions for use, Best began exploring ways to keep this and other pertinent equipment- and supply-related information organized and within easy access to his staff.

"The Joint Commission has made it very clear that we need to have all manufacturer recommendations onsite and readily available," said Best. "We need to know how each individual device or piece of equipment is to be processed and handled. We realized we also needed to have a way of keeping all this information handy and in one place."

Best was introduced to oneSOURCEdocs.com, an Internet-accessed electronic binder that groups all manufacturer instructions (including decontamination, assembly, sterilization, and more) in one location – and he hasn't looked back. More than 85,000 instrument documents are included and the database is continuously updated as new devices/instruments come to

market. A search engine provides multiple search paths (i.e., general instrument name, manufacturer, product name, etc.) to all needed documents. Additionally, sterile processing-specific documents are extracted directly from the original instructions, which further assists technicians in their daily tasks.

"Not only do we have readily available the most up-to-date information, which means we don't have to waste time searching through all the instructions, we are able to identify other important instrumentation practices that help us reduce risk," said Best. Having the sterility parameters and other device-specific information in one place and easily accessible helped the department more clearly demonstrate best practices and increase efficiency, which Best said played an important role in reducing immediate-use sterilization.

"When you're organized and have all the right information at your fingertips, you're able to make better decisions that can improve quality and safety, and reduce unnecessary risks," he said. "And that's what quality assurance and performance improvement is really all about." **HPN**

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