

Pure and simple

Advancing decontamination in dental practices.

The health department's new best practice guide, *HTM01-05 Decontamination in primary care dental practices* (currently draft) 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

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requirements of water used to supply washer disinfectors, autoclaves, ultrasonic 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 Process Water's engineers have developed a compact water purification system that is easy to use and maintain and meets the new guidelines.

Typical of Elga Process Water'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



●Dispensing gun for manual filling.

Powell, Surrey's clinical director for dental services.

'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,' said Jane.

Gary White said: '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.'

The answer for Gary was an Elga Biopure 7/15 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.

'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,' said Gary.

The Biopure 7/15 incorporates



●The unit supplies purified water directly to the washer disinfectant.

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, sinks and dental lines. Even in a new facility, space is at a premium and the compact Biopure 7/15 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 7/15, 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. Practices don't need to purchase the Biopure 7/15 outright; they can take advantage of Elga Process Water's All-in-Pack rental agreement, which means no capital expenditure for the practice. ■

See www.elgaprocesswater.co.uk/en/markets/healthcare/primary_care/ for details.