

Bryn Mawr Hospital

Proven Performance and Cost-Effectiveness of CIDEX® OPA Solution—A Winning Combination for Pennsylvania Hospital

Bryn Mawr Hospital is a busy 323-bed medical center that is part of Main Line Health, a five-hospital healthcare system serving suburban Philadelphia. The hospital includes nine operating rooms in its main facility and six in its surgicenter. It offers a range of endoscopic procedures and in 2008 handled more than 2,100 colonoscopies and endoscopies.

High-level disinfection plays an important role in ongoing instrument processing at the hospital. As part of its commitment to exceptional patient care, Bryn Mawr utilizes CIDEX® OPA Solution to high-level disinfect a range of instruments, including flexible endoscopes in the endoscopy unit and equipment in ultrasound, radiology, the vascular lab, perinatal services, and the OR.

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The hospital adopted CIDEX® OPA Solution more than nine years ago for its ease of use and contribution to staff safety, including a reduction in fumes and the elimination of monitoring requirements associated with glutaraldehyde. After years of use, CIDEX OPA Solution has become an integral component of Bryn Mawr's infection prevention practices, providing not only effective high-level disinfection, but also increasing efficiency and minimizing instrument damage and repair costs—secondary but equally critical demands faced by healthcare providers everywhere.



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Proven Performance

According to Patricia McBride, RN, MSN, CIC, senior practitioner, infection prevention and control at Bryn Mawr Hospital, the switch to CIDEX® OPA Solution was initially driven by concerns about employee safety. CIDEX OPA Solution—0.55% *ortho*-phthalaldehyde—is a nonglutaraldehyde high-level disinfectant for flexible endoscopes and other medical devices that is virtually odorless due to low vapor pressure and requires no special vents or air monitors.

McBride, who has worked at Bryn Mawr for more than 20 years, is responsible for the infection prevention program, including developing and implementing policies and procedures, education, and training. Working with a second full-time

“Our commitment to the highest standards of instrument processing and use of CIDEX® OPA Solution have resulted in a record of no instrument-related infections.”

practitioner, she also handles surveillance for hospital-acquired infections and monitors all products that impact infection prevention, including high-level disinfectants.

According to McBride, the hospital was pleased to have a user-friendly alternative to glutaraldehyde and adopted CIDEX® OPA Solution shortly after its introduction into the U.S. market by Advanced Sterilization Products (ASP). “We are always thinking about the health of our employees,” she said. “When CIDEX OPA Solution was introduced in 1999, our options expanded. We were an early adopter—happy to change to a more user-friendly high-level disinfectant in terms of the fumes.”

At Bryn Mawr, the Central Service Department handles the bulk of all instrument processing. However, where permitted by standards, a limited number of patient care areas requiring fast turnaround of instrumentation utilize CIDEX OPA Solution for high-level disinfection. This includes the endoscopy unit, where the solution is used to quickly and effectively high-level disinfect flexible endoscopes in order to support a large number of procedures each day.

The microbial efficacy of CIDEX OPA Solution has been demonstrated by testing of the solution using

prescribed test methods,¹ as well as by successful clinical use over nearly 10 years. The proven performance of the solution has provided McBride with the confidence that expensive and delicate instruments are being effectively disinfected, especially important as the focus on healthcare-associated infections continues to grow nationwide.

“Healthcare-associated infections are not tolerated,” she said. “Hospitals care about preventing infections, and the public is much more aware. This is especially true for the endoscopy unit, where the potential for problems increases due to the large number of scopes used daily. Our commitment to the highest standards of instrument processing and use of CIDEX OPA Solution have resulted in a record of no instrument-related infections.”

Additional Benefits

McBride added that while effective high-level disinfection is paramount, CIDEX® OPA Solution has provided other benefits to Bryn Mawr, including a fast processing time, increased instrument processing staff efficiency and, importantly, a high level of materials compatibility. CIDEX OPA Solution is gentle on instruments, which means it can reduce instrument damage and repair costs. “We have not had any damage or repair problems



CIDEX® OPA Solution

Introduced in 1999, CIDEX® OPA Solution (0.55% *ortho*-phthalaldehyde) is a proven and trusted nonglutaraldehyde solution for disinfection of flexible endoscopes and other medical devices. A gentle reprocessing option that minimizes instrument damage and repair costs, CIDEX OPA Solution is effective against a broad range of microorganisms, including glutaraldehyde-resistant mycobacteria.¹ Its fast processing time—5 minutes at a minimum of 25°C in automatic endoscope reprocessors* or 12 minutes for manual disinfection at room temperature—increases efficiency and makes CIDEX OPA Solution a cost-effective option for instrument processing.¹ More than 8,000 healthcare facilities in 45 countries rely on CIDEX OPA Solution for fast, safe, and effective high-level disinfection of medical devices.

**CIDEX® OPA Solution is a high-level disinfectant when used or reused in a legally marketed automatic endoscope reprocessor (that can be set to a minimum of 25° C).*

with our scopes,” she said. “If you don’t have any infection problems or equipment damage from disinfection, you stick with what you have and are happy with it.”

Standardization & Impact on Budget

Bryn Mawr’s positive experience with CIDEX® OPA Solution rippled throughout the Main Line Health system, eventually leading to the adoption of the solution at all four acute-care hospitals, as well as a rehab hospital that is part of the system. Based on its proven performance and user-friendly characteristics, the hospitals have standardized the use of CIDEX OPA Solution for high-level disinfection. This, in turn, allowed the infection prevention staff to standardize development and implementation of policies and procedures, increasing efficiency by streamlining training of hospital personnel and eliminating the need to customize materials for each site.

Use of a single high-level disinfectant also rewarded the hospitals financially. McBride said that the hospitals purchase CIDEX OPA Solution as part of a group and receive volume advantages—a common business practice for facilities participating in group purchasing organizations.

According to McBride, the role of CIDEX OPA Solution in high-level disinfection and the superior value it provides to the Main Line Health hospitals were reinforced following a recent product review. Requested by the Main Line Health Value Analysis Committee and Purchasing Department following the launch of a generic *ortho*-phthalaldehyde-based high-level disinfectant, the review found that despite an initial price advantage, the features of the generic—including a difference in OPA concentration—would actually require an expensive policy and procedure overhaul.

With the generic, there would be different requirements for rinsing, different strips used to test minimum effective concentration, and different processing protocols. If a change were made, hospital personnel also would have to be retrained, and policies and procedures updated



Bryn Mawr Hospital’s infection prevention team—Patricia McBride (left) and Shahrzad Darvish (right).

(those very procedures that had been successfully standardized across the five facilities).

McBride said the change would have been difficult. “Anytime you have in-servicing involved, it is a big ordeal,” she said. “It is necessary but very time consuming. You don’t have the luxury of scheduling a single-day in-service session and catching all the shifts. Those days are gone. You have to deal with staff members working different shifts and different days of the week. Of course, we all want the lowest possible costs, but in healthcare you can’t decide on price alone. Sometimes, a lower cost does not mean a good deal—we have to look at the full picture.”

During an in-depth comparison of the products and consultation with ASP, the committee determined that overall pricing between the two products was similar. In the end, a decision was made to stay with CIDEX OPA Solution. McBride said the commitment to CIDEX OPA Solution was well received. “Our infection prevention and materials management staff, as well as other users, had been pleased with its performance and did not want to change, but a possibility of lower costs opened the door for discussion,” she said. “However, during the review, it became clear that our longtime positive experience with CIDEX OPA Solution and its proven performance over many years were extremely relevant to the decision-making process.”

Ongoing Support

According to McBride, after almost 10 years of experience with CIDEX® OPA Solution, the hospital

has come to value the ongoing customer service and support it receives from ASP. “You want to adopt a disinfectant like CIDEX OPA that is supported by substantial research, proven efficacy, and continued support from the manufacturer,” she said. “We benefit from the excellent sales support and clinical education we receive from ASP.”

In addition to CIDEX OPA Solution, Bryn Mawr Hospital utilizes two STERRAD® Systems from ASP for sterilization of heat- and moisture-sensitive medical devices. McBride said ASP provides

excellent sales support and in-service training for both CIDEX OPA Solution and the STERRAD Systems, as well as assistance from its clinical education consultants, who provide clinical trouble shooting and on-site education to meet annual competency requirements in infection prevention and instrument processing practices. “Customer service is a priority, and we know we can count on ASP,” she said. “On one occasion, our sales rep responded to an inquiry even though she was home with the flu!”

Conclusion

Infection prevention is a key part of Bryn Mawr Hospital’s commitment to high-quality care and patient and staff safety. As part of that focus, the medical center continues to rely on CIDEX® OPA Solution for the high-level disinfection of medical devices, including flexible endoscopes. According to McBride, the results for the hospital have been excellent, and she wants to keep it that way. “CIDEX OPA is an effective, user-friendly high-level disinfectant that has helped us achieve our ‘no infection’ record for instruments,” she said. “Improving the quality of care is a key goal for everyone in the medical community. At Bryn Mawr, our focus on quality and infection prevention is blossoming—it is an ongoing process, and we strive for 100 percent compliance with preventive measures as we continue to focus on our goal of no healthcare-associated infections.” ■

Bryn Mawr Hospital

Bryn Mawr Hospital offers a range of medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, psychiatric, and emergency care, as well as specialized services, including comprehensive centers for orthopedic joint replacement, breast care, wound healing, outpatient imaging, reproductive medicine, cancer care, heart health, neonatal intensive care, and children’s health. It is part of Main Line Health along with Lankenau, Paoli, and Riddle Memorial acute-care hospitals, and Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. The hospital is at the forefront of medical excellence, with state-of-the-art technology and highly trained medical professionals. Bryn Mawr Hospital’s nursing staff was awarded Magnet status by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in 2005. Also in 2005, the hospital received the Orthopedics Care Excellence Award from HealthGrades and was ranked No. 1 in Pennsylvania for Overall Orthopedic Services. In January 2009, Bryn Mawr Hospital was awarded Disease-Specific Certification in Hip and Knee Replacement by The Joint Commission.

References

1. CIDEX® OPA *ortho*-Phthalaldehyde Solution Instructions for Use. Irvine, Calif.: Advanced Sterilization Products; 2006.

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