New APIC Guideline for Infection Prevention and Control in Flexible Endoscopy

Gina Pugliese, RN, MS
Martin S. Favero, PhD

The first Association of Practitioners in Infection Control (APIC) guideline for infection prevention and control in flexible endoscopy was published in 1994 (Am J Infect Control 1994;2:19-38). This guideline was followed by a multisociety position statement endorsed by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, the American Gastroenterological Association, the American College of Gastroenterology, and APIC (Gastrointest Endosc 1996;43:540-546). In 1997, a monograph on standards for infection control and reprocessing of flexible gastrointestinal endoscopes developed by the Society for Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates offered specific recommendations in a highly detailed, step-by-step fashion (Gastroenterol Nurs 1997;20 [suppl]:1-13).

This new APIC guideline reflects all these efforts and provides an update in this important area. The guideline is divided into the following sections: Infectious Complications of Flexible Endoscopy; Flexible Endoscopes Structure and Design; Processing of Endoscopes and Accessories; Reuse of Single-Use Endoscopy Devices/Accessories; Quality Control-Assessment of the Adequacy of Disinfection/Sterilization; Outbreak Management; Design of Facilities for Performing Endoscopic Procedures, Including Support; Space; Endoscopy Personnel; Product Development and Areas for Future Investigation; and Recommendations.