

Medical Device Reprocessing in the News

October 14, 2008

GAO report finds no link between [hospital acquired infections](#) (HAIs) and reprocessed devices

In a September 26, 2008 report to Congress, the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that "none of the experts we [GAO] interviewed cited the use of reprocessed single-use devices as a factor contributing to HAIs in hospitals." GAO found that patient examination and treatment practices were the most significant factors affecting the occurrences of hospital acquired infections. In 2007, Congress requested a report on the causes of HAIs, and specifically instructed GAO to consider reprocessed devices as a potential source. This is the second GAO report in a year to note the absence of evidence linking increased risk to patients with the use of reprocessed devices.

Reprocessing SUDs reduces waste, costs

A September 2008 article in [Materials Management in Health Care](#) magazine notes "for Banner Health, Phoenix, reprocessing medical devices isn't just a cost-saver, it's an Earth-saver." The article highlights the fact that "American health care facilities send 4 billion pounds of waste to landfills and commercial incinerators," and that health care is the second largest contributor to landfill space after the food service industry." According to the article, Banner officials predict that by using reprocessed devices they will divert more than 27 tons of waste from landfills over the next 3 years.

AMDR members serve 88% of the Top Hospitals in the 2008 LeapFrog Hospital Survey

The [LeapFrog Group](#) is a Washington, DC-based patient safety advocacy group, and its annual survey is considered one of the nation's premier hospital patient safety evaluation tools. The survey provides consumers and health care purchasers with up-to-date assessments of 1,220 participating hospitals' quality and safety. A study published in the June issue of the *Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* found that hospitals that perform well on the [Leapfrog Hospital Survey](#) have lower mortality and better quality of care than other hospitals.

AMDR joins the Product Stewardship Institute

AMDR recently became a member of [the Product Stewardship Institute](#) (PSI) [Adjunct Council](#). Through this membership, our organization is part of an extended, collaborative network of businesses, environmental organizations, and other key players who, together, will share information and expertise, and find new and innovative ways to reduce the health and environmental impact of all types of consumer products.

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AMDR speaks at [NJ Healthcare Central Service Association](#)

On September 18th, Kathryn Balmford, counsel for AMDR and a Senior Associate at Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Bode Matz PC, spoke to more than 90 healthcare professionals providing an update on the reprocessing industry. Ms. Balmford reported on the new GAO report's conclusions as well as current state-based legislative challenges to reprocessing. Many of the seminar participants were interested in learning more about building strong reprocessing programs at their hospitals, particularly when faced with attempts by original equipment manufacturers to undermine the programs.

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