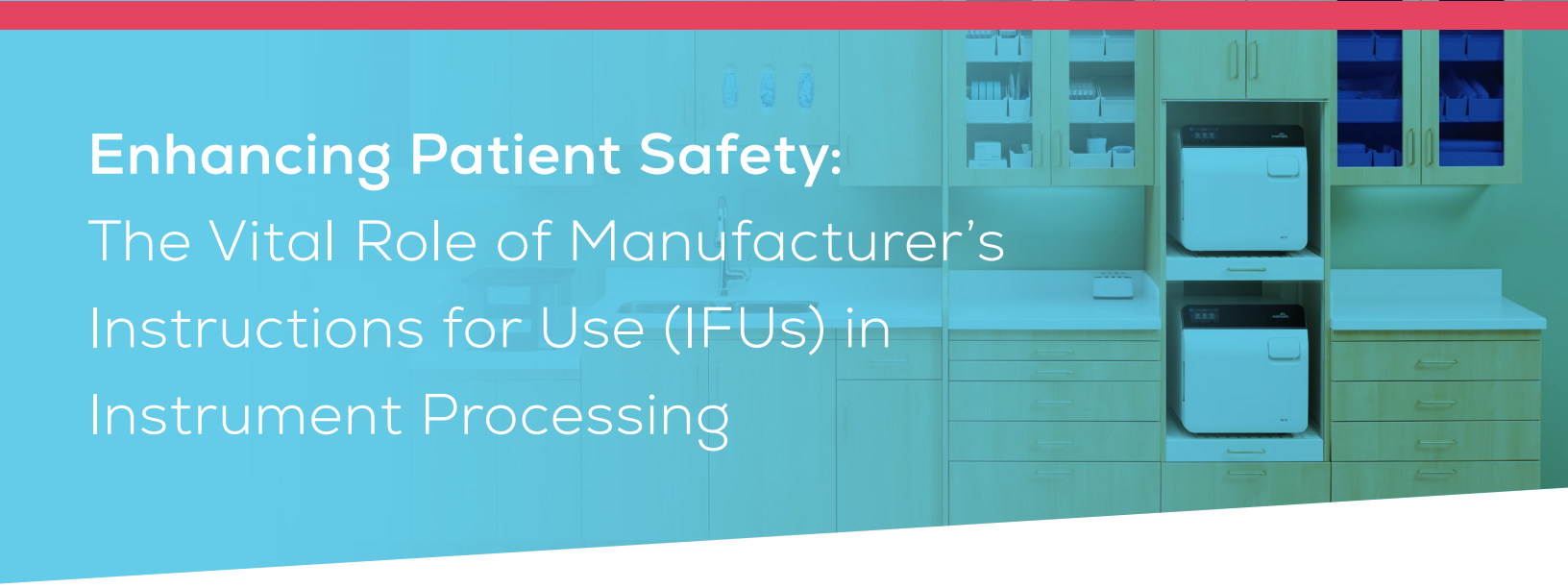

Enhancing Patient Safety:
The Vital Role of Manufacturer's Instructions for Use (IFUs) in Instrument Processing

DESCRIPTION

Instrument reprocessing has an interesting history. Prior to guidelines from federal, accrediting and professional agencies, cleaning processes were often determined by a member of leadership and what they thought would work best. Manufacturers are required to provide information needed by processing personnel to reach recommended or required sterilization parameters. Each medical device comes with manufacturer instructions for use (IFU), also known as manufacturer's instructions, and they should be readily accessible to all end-users. Advances in medical technology have led to more complex instrument design, which in turn has led to more complicated IFUs. Healthcare organizations must put processes in place that help take the mystery out of the IFUs, provide effective training, empower personnel to identify areas of noncompliance, and (most importantly) require compliance to help break the chain of infection and provide safe patient care.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this continuing education activity, the participant should be able to:

- Outline the ways in which properly following IFUs throughout the instrument processing journey may prevent/reduce infections or citations from accrediting or regulating bodies.
- Describe how proficiently reading, interpreting and applying IFUs in the clinic setting (thereby optimizing workflow design) can reduce pathogen transmission between staff and patients.
- Explain how to optimize workflow and integrate infection control principles into the design of instrument processing units, ultimately enhancing safety and efficiency.

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ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

California Board of Registered Nursing
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses is provider-approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 13019 for **2.0 contact hours.**

NCCT

The National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT) has approved this program for **2.0 contact hours.**

CBSPD

The Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) has approved this program for **2.0 contact hours.**

HSPA

The Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) has approved this educational offering for **2.0 contact hours** to participants who successfully complete this program.

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