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New APIC Guideline for Infection Prevention and Control in Flexible Endoscopy

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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.

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