

# Increased Endoscope Decontamination Capacity Achieved at Fairfield Independent Hospital, St Helens



Andy Jones, Hospital Manager at Fairfield Independent Hospital, St Helens, explained how the hospital needed to increase its endoscope decontamination capacity to satisfy increased patient numbers. Plus improve equipment reliability and future proof the decontamination facility. This led to the installation of two pass through automated endoscope reprocessors (AER's) along with a duplex thermally sanitised water treatment system that supplies RO water to all stages of the cleaning process.

With the board's approval Andy Jones went to market and researched suitable decontamination equipment, talking and visiting a selection of sites. After much research he decided on two Wassenburg WD440PT AER's. This not only doubled their decontamination capacity, but with their twin chamber design, if one chamber was out of action for routine service the remaining three chambers could still function resulting in less downtime.

To comply with the CfPP01-06 guidelines Wassenburg recommended that they install an EWS EndoTherm Duo reverse osmosis system. This included a duplex facility to offer the resilience that Andy was looking for. Its flow rate of >300 litres/hr covered the demand from both AER's and with the EndoTherm Duo running duty assist rather than duty standby, it easily covered up to 600 litres /hr for short periods if necessary. For future proofing the EndoTherm Duo is easy and cost effective to upgrade.



Kath Scott SSD Supervisor,  
The EndoTherm Duo

The hospital already had an RO system in its sterile services department from EWS, so were already aware of the high quality after sales service and low running costs available and were happy to run with Wassenburg's recommendation. Given the small footprint of the new EndoTherm Duo reverse osmosis unit, it was located next to the AER's in the wash room – this greatly reduced stainless steel pipework costs.

To accommodate the new equipment it was decided that they would convert an old kitchen into the endoscope decontamination area. This area is located outside of theatre and centrally in the hospital giving more flexibility on where the endoscopes can be used. To ensure minimum disruption to the hospital, communication and planning between



Loading Side



Unloading Side

## Benefits

Wassenburg, EWS and the hospital was essential. Overall the complete work (including building work) took 16 weeks, during this time the existing system remained in place. The switch between the old and new system took place smoothly and with minimum disruption.

The hospital now see over 200 patients a day and key benefits from the new installation include:

- No cancellation of lists since the system was installed
- Creation of a day-case clinic due to increased scope reprocessing capacity
- Shorter cleaning cycles/quicker turnround for the endoscopes
- Full tracking and traceability on all scopes as required by the current guidelines
- Improved working environment for decontamination staff with designated loading and unloading areas

Twelve months on Andy Jones, Hospital Manager says

**“All expectations of the new system have been met. I am very pleased with the new equipment, both the water treatment system and the AER’s. Since their installation we have not had to cancel any lists due to the reliability of the complete system. It really has been a breath of fresh air.”**

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