Reprocessing Standards – A new era

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Reprocessing reusable medical devices has moved forward into the 21st century in a positive manner. My career started in the 1990s with best practice guided by AS/NZS 4187:1998, then AS/NZS 4187:2003 which recognised the evolution of flexible endoscopes and power drills. As the need for clarity in the office-based environment was recognised, AS/NZS 4815: 2006 was developed with the same science but contextualised to the smaller environment. To maintain relevance standards' undergo ongoing review which led to the next version, AS/NZS 4187:2014. Following this a project was launched to bring the two sterilising standards (AS/NZS 4187:2014 & AS/NZS 4815:2003) together as a single standard to guide best practice for all reprocessing environments. This has led to the birth of AS 5369 Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities.

AS 5369 is still in draft, but it is nearing publication, this session is to give a view of what this new era of reprocessing standards will mean for users. Remember, until a standard has been published the existing version are the ones that must be referred to and implemented. This means all people undertaking reprocessing should be referring to either AS/NZS 4187 or AS/NZS 4815 until you receive formal notification that they have been superseded by AS 5369.