

# SERENAGROUP NEWSLETTER

Building the Nation's Leading Wound Care Team

## Inappropriate Sterilization of Disposable Instruments

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**THOMAS SERENA, MD, CEO**

It has come to the attention of SerenaGroup® that the Joint Commission has issued several immediate threat findings over that last several weeks. These findings are related to the inappropriate sterilization of disposable instruments. During COVID-19, hospital systems across the country have experienced disruptions to their supply chain and purchasing processes and have occasionally been forced to purchase disposable instruments. These alternative purchases put Sterile Processing Departments at risk of unknowingly sterilizing disposable devices. Outpatient Wound Centers are at risk due to the high volume of procedures being performed.

SerenaGroup® strongly recommends that coordination between the Outpatient Wound Centers, Supply Chain and Sterile Processing are put in place to ensure that

disposable instruments and equipment are not being sterilized and recirculated.

In addition, it is recommended that the Wound Care Center Staff and Providers inspect all instruments prior to use. Instrument inspection should include:

- Package seal is not compromised in any way
- Internal indicator is visible and displaying correct color
- Ratcheted or clamped instruments are unlocked
- There is no moisture present in the package
- There is no deep etching on the instrument
- No rust or oxygenation is present on the instrument
- No visible blood, tissue, or dirt is on the instrument

SerenaGroup® has addressed this situation with the SerenaGroup® Program Directors; they are aware and are expected to fully educate their staff and providers accordingly.

We are committed to ensuring a safe environment for our staff, providers, and patients. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out and we will be happy to assist.



## ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Nancy Trafelet  
Program Director



Dr. Serena's vision for SerenaGroup® is to be the first in the wound care industry to collect the data on antimicrobial stewardship program (ASP). The Joint Commission requires outpatient departments that prescribe antibiotics to institute antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs). Presently, the prescription of topical antimicrobials and antibiotics in the wound clinic is best described as indiscriminate. It is forecasted that the data on topical antimicrobial and antibiotic use will be collected from advanced wound care centers across the United States. This cumulative data on antimicrobial use will improve patient care and inform future ASP interventions.

The importance of Antimicrobial Stewardship is to promote the appropriate use of antimicrobials (antibiotics), improves patient outcomes, reduces microbial resistance, and decreases the spread of infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms.

SerenaGroup® set the goal for 2022 to start the collection of data for the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program for SerenaGroup. SerenaGroup® had six (6) outpatient advanced wound care centers participate. An ASP workflow guideline was created to help guide our centers follow and collect the same data on all new wound care patients that entered into their centers.

Sharing the results from my center at Ascension Via Christi.

- Time frame included February 2022 – August 2022
- 338 new patients were enrolled in the ASP program
- Based on clinical signs and symptoms, of the 338 patients the wound had excessive bacteria (infection)
  - 81% had NO signs or symptoms
  - 19% had signs or symptoms

- Of the 338 new wound care patients,
  - 61% had fluorescence imaging performed with MolecuLight
    - 60% of these patients had high bacterial load present
      - Treatments on these patients included topical antibiotics, dressing, oral antibiotics, and vashe with 1 patient receiving no treatment.
    - 40% of these patients were absent of high bacterial load and the patient was discharged from ASP
  - 39% did not have fluorescence imaging
    - 7% of these patients had cultures obtained
    - 93% of these patients had no cultures obtained
      - 55% of patients received the treatments

Findings that were found included

- 1.7% of new patients received a fluorescence image and a culture was taken
  - 100% of these patients were put on a treatment
    - 66% of these patients showed clinical signs and symptoms of infection and were put on treatments
    - 33% of these patients did not show clinical signs and symptoms of infection and were put on oral antibiotics.
- 14% of patients had NO image or culture taken, but were given a treatment.
  - 15% of these patients did show clinical signs and symptoms of infection
- 25% of new patients showed NO clinical signs and symptoms of infection but received a positive fluorescence image (MolecuLight).

SerenaGroup® programs have set goals for 2023, created a ASP Committee and included the ASP Metric on the SerenaGroup® Quality Metric Dashboard.



## SERENAGROUP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2022



Jill Schroder  
Sr. VP of Operations

SerenaGroup® leaders need to connect with each other, share trust and have relationships to thrive. It is important to recognize the value of people, seek to know them for who they are and build lasting connections. – Dr. Serena

SerenaGroup® held the 2nd Annual SerenaGroup® Leadership Conference in October 2022 in New Orleans. The group of leaders developed their skill sets in four main areas: Leadership, Networking, Operations, and Culture.

Through leadership, it is vital to the success of our leaders to have clear expectations. Understanding their role and the expectations that come with it begins with deciding what outcomes and/or goals need to be met.

Networking internally with SerenaGroup® is imperative to our leaders. Being able to have a free exchange of ideas as they develop and share in a safe environment provides advanced and consistent body of methods, treatments, and outcomes that has resulted in an exemplary level of medical care best practices.

Operations of our centers by our leaders continues to improve through education, training, and mentoring which assures that our Advanced Wound Care Centers deliver high quality care in a positive work culture.

From our newest leader to our CEO, SerenaGroup® strives toward an inclusive company culture with a shared goal of excellence in medicine, compassion, and understanding in interpersonal relationships, universal respect for the rights of our fellow leaders and a commitment for ALL of us to realize our potential.

The two-day SerenaGroup® Leadership Conference was extremely beneficial for our leaders. The presentations included:

- Culture and Site Review
- Best Practices in Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine
- SG Dashboard & Productivity Review
- Educational Resources
- SGPG - Who Are We?
- Engagement: Inoculating Team Osteomyelitis
- SerenaGroup Standards of Compliance + Accreditation Program Review
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
- Audit Analysis and Hot Spots
- Team Alignment Workshop using Insights Discovery® Profile and Emotional Intelligence (EI) guidelines

Our SerenaGroup® Leaders average 6 years in longevity with SerenaGroup®, and these leaders are a part of building a positive work culture, ensure best practices are delivered and maintain key relationships which makes SerenaGroup® the best wound care company in the industry.



## 2022 SerenaGroup Educational Courses

40hr Intro to HBO

Nov 3-6, 2022 | Wichita KS

Jan 12-15, 2023 | Omaha NE

Mar 23-26, 2023 | West Palm Beach FL

Aug 17-20, 2023 | West Palm Beach FL

Nov 9-12, 2023 | West Palm Beach FL

**Education is one of many key benefits to partnering with SerenaGroup.**

SerenaGroup recognizes that the key to continued success with positive clinical outcomes is education. Education is provided through different platforms to ensure the tools are available to our centers.

## SerenaGroup Blue Star Winner



**Bianca, CMA**

**Dell Seton Medical Center at  
The University of Texas**

**"Bianca is a dedicated, hardworking, and dependable team player who is always willing to help to ensure patients are taken care of daily."**



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