

## IS POU FILTRATION PART OF YOUR WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Point of use filtration offers immediate and long-term protection from waterborne pathogens like *Legionella*. Learn why POU is the best option for your WMP.

### [CDC Guide - Developing a WMP to reduce Legionella](#)

#### **Why POU should be a part of every WMP**

Point of Use Filters (POU) are frequently a missed portion of Water Safety Management Plans (WSMP) and need to be part of the Contingency Response Plan. Because of the nature of water systems in health care settings, exposure to the water can place patients/residents at risk of infection from waterborne pathogens or at risk of exposure to an outbreak. Moreover, many people being treated at health care facilities, including long-term care facilities and hospitals, have conditions that put them at greater risk of getting sick and dying from these pathogens.

#### **An Immediate Solution**

POU filters are the one solution that can be immediately installed to provide a barrier of defense against waterborne pathogens before patients could be exposed *Legionella*, *Pseudomonas*, Non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) and other life-threatening bacteria. Having a supply of POU filters on hand should be part of Contingency Response Plan if or when the water tests positive for high levels of *Legionella*, *Pseudomonas*, or other pathogens. The Department of Veterans Affairs, [VHA Directive 1061](#) states “Point-of-use filters may be installed at specific outlets to prevent *Legionella* exposure to patients. This method may be of particular use in areas that treat high-risk patients.” POU filters can also be used in preventing the passage of *Legionella* bacteria, other specific microorganisms, and particulate contaminants present in water for ice machines, and drinking fountains.

Even facilities with a secondary chemical water treatment system should consider POU filters as a proactive approach for protection in areas where the most vulnerable patients are housed in a

facility. Chemical solutions are a common method in limiting pathogens from both cooling towers and plumbing systems and are designed to kill pathogens and penetrate biofilms. Despite this treatment, biofilms often remain persistent within plumbing systems allowing pathogens to live and reproduce even after repeated treatments. Furthermore, chemical disinfectants may not reach dead legs or low water flow areas making them less effective at distant points in the plumbing system. Secondary chemical water treatments also require water restrictions that disrupt normal operations.

## Proactive Planning

AquaMedix believes Point of Use filters should be a part of every facility's Water Safety Management Plan; as a prevention element for patients with immunocompromised systems in the areas where they are housed. If planning proactively, an adequate supply of POU filters should be on hand for contingency actions should *Legionella* bacteria or water borne pathogens be detected above acceptable levels in a facility's potable water system.

### About AquaMedix

AquaMedix develops, manufactures, and distributes point-of-use (POU) and inline filtration systems designed to protect against waterborne bacteria. Proprietary filters trap potentially lethal pathogenic bacteria such as Legionella, Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, Nontuberculous Mycobacterium, and Stenotrophomonas. In addition to selling a complete line of CleanSpray POU and inline filtration systems, AquaMedix is the U.S. Master Distributor for Baclyser POU and inline filters by Aqua free.

Our products include shower and faucet filters as well as standard and specialty inline filters to protect water used in ice machines, coffee machines, dental office sprayers, and other appliances. AquaMedix products are easy to install and maintain without large capital expenses or the need for costly chemicals, machinery, or special training. With filters installed nationwide in healthcare facilities, AquaMedix is positioned to address infection control concerns with a variety of innovative and cost-effective products.

**For Use In:** hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities such as skilled nursing and adult care facilities. Recommended for areas at high-risk for hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) such as ICU, neonatal, oncology, burn, and transplant units.

