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**Events Calendar**

North Carolina Biomed Association Annual Symposium ([NCBA](#))  
Concord, NC  
September 6-9, 2010

[MD Expo](#)  
Orlando, FL  
October 20-23, 2010

**Merle's Tech Tip**



Help keep your doctors happy by performing a simple, quick test on your needle holders. Simply lock handles at tightest lock position, hold needle holder up to light (sideways) to see if any light shows thru the inserts where they mesh together. If light shows thru, especially at the tip, the inserts need replaced! This reduces slipping needles and makes suturing go without a "hitch"!!

--Merle Fullerton, Priority One Instrument Repair Tech Supervisor

*Merle Fullerton came to Priority One with 14 years of experience in the medical instrument repair field. His vast knowledge and experience contributes to exceptional repairs and rapid return times for your facility. Merle's motto: "Never return a repaired instrument that you would not want used on your own children."*

*"I came to you for life,  
But you just made me **sicker**."*

Excerpt from "Hands,"  
by Daniel Lieu

**Winner of Inaugural Infection Prevention Film Announced**

The first prize winner of a unique inaugural film festival was announced during the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference and International Meeting of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology ([APIC](#)). APIC believes these compelling videos will help to serve as an entertaining reminder to encourage safe habits in hospitals to protect patients.

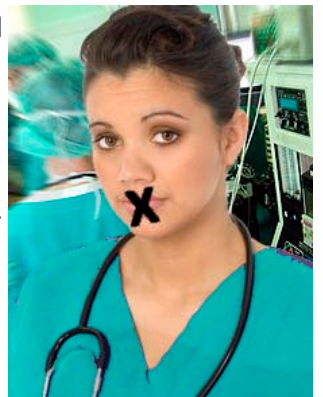
The first place video was created by University of the Pacific in California student, Daniel Lieu. His submission entitled "[Hands](#)," depicts a haunting story of a patient who tragically contracts an infection through improper hand washing practices.

**Proud Partners**



**Silence Still Kills**

Sterile Processing ... Surgical Safety Checklist ... Universal Protocol ... it is difficult to imagine with so many tools and checklists available that tragedy is often the result of oversight or blatant disregard. Although there are many tools in place to ensure patient safety, they are only as effective as the healthcare provider's adherence to them. If policies are not properly complied with and those witnessing the event are afraid to speak up, the quality of treatment and patient safety suffers.

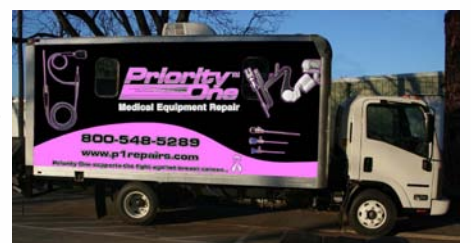


This issue was addressed in a report released during the [58<sup>th</sup> Annual AORN Congress](#). The report, [The Silent Treatment](#), brings the healthcare community up to date on the lack of progress that has taken place in those areas affecting patient safety but deemed "undiscussable" as brought to light in an initial 2005 study. That 2005 study entitled [Silence Kills](#) revealed a startling lack of communication by healthcare professionals when dangerous shortcuts potentially leading to jeopardizing patient safety were observed.

The report presented by VitalSmarts, AORN, & AACN, stresses the importance of "making candor a core competency."

**Priority One Adds to Fleet**

In order to better serve the growing number of customers wishing to utilize the speed



and convenience of onsite medical equipment repair, Priority One recently added six mobile repair units to the existing fleet. "This expansion is just one of the many ways that Priority One adjusts to meet the needs and demands of our customers," said Ryan Williams, Priority One president. It is hard to miss these recent additions with the pink lettering and black background highlighting the various instruments serviced by Priority One.

**AAMI Sterile Benchmarking Tool**

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation ([AAMI](#))'s new sterile benchmarking tool, "SPB," acquired nearly 100 subscribers in the first two weeks of initial launch, as reported by [Infection Control Today](#).

AAMI's new software is a web-based "yardstick" in which departments can now measure their sterile processing policies and procedures to comparable facilities.

AAMI is planning a free webinar to demonstrate Sterile Processing Benchmarks in September 2011. To receive notification of the date and time, simply click [here](#).