



Newsletter

Message from the CEO

Vern Taaffe



“All of us at RPC are excited and pleased to deliver for you this first edition of the official RPC newsletter. We think you will agree that this periodic newsletter is a terrific complement to RPC’s long history of providing you, our valued dialysis colleagues, with unmatched dialysis specific product information and technical support.

During this time wherein the focus of many former dialysis manufacturers is being diluted or totally removed via mergers and acquisitions, RPC continues to focus on your dialysis specific needs and on serving you and your dialysis patients. One of many examples of RPC’s commitment to you and your dialysis patients is evidenced by our decades of continuing detailed participation in the AAMI/ISO Renal Disease and Detoxification Committee for setting dialysis standards and guidelines.

In each RPC newsletter issue, you can expect to find much helpful and interesting information. As with RPC’s website, RPC videos, and RPC national symposium presentations, the newsletter information can help improve processes and procedures. You can expect each periodic edition of the newsletter to include up-to-date product support information, technical educational information, an important message from rotating RPC executives... each having many years of experience in the dialysis industry.. and much more.”



RPC - Arizona



RPC - Minnesota

About Us

RPC was founded in 1991 by Vern Taaffe and Michael Honstein as a company specializing in dialyzer reprocessing. RPC merged with Rabrenco Scientific in 1995 to form the only company specializing in dialysis technical products. RPC is located in Tucson, Arizona and Minneapolis, Minnesota. We are a leading innovator in products improving patient care quality and treatment outcomes. We are well known for providing high level technical education and support to the dialysis community. We offer hundreds of products worldwide for use in dialysis and other industries.

Check out our new K100-0117 Training Video!



What's New?

Enhanced Color Reaction:

Faster spot-on determination of dialysate pH value.

Updated Instructions for Use:

Reflecting the revised test timing for both test strips.

QR Code to IFU on label:

Convenient access to the IFU.

Product Updates

RPC is excited to share recent enhancements to our E-Z Chek® pH Test Strips for final dialysate validation. These updates ensure accuracy, ease of use, and cost-efficiency. *Here's what you need to know:*

K100-0117 - E-Z Chek® 6.8 - 8.5 pH Test Strips:

Designed for bicarb/acetate dialysate, these test strips cover the pH range of 6.9 to 7.6 observed by CMS and comply with AAMI (RD52) guidelines, providing confidence in dialysate quality. The color scale includes two bicarbonate concentrate color blocks at 8.0 and 8.5 pH.

K100-0117CT - E-Z Chek® 6.8-8.5 pH Test Strips (bicarb/Citrate dialysate):

Tailored for bicarb/citrate dialysate, these test strips cover the pH range of 6.9 to 7.6 observed by CMS for dialysate and comply with AAMI (RD52) guidelines. The color scale includes two bicarbonate concentrate color blocks at 8.0 and 8.5 pH.

We are excited to share that we have completed the ISO 13485 audit!



ISO 13485 is the internationally accepted standard for medical device quality management systems. It ensures that RPC's processes align with best practices and regulatory requirements. This achievement validates our unwavering commitment to meeting the highest standards of quality, reliability, and safety in the dialysis industry.

RPC is very proud of this accomplishment and we want to thank our team, our suppliers, and our customers for their support and trust. We are committed to maintaining and improving our quality standards and compliance, and to providing you with the best possible solutions.

Did you know?

In 1990, at a get-together with friends and colleagues, Vern Taaffe, Michael Honstein, and Roger Hall, discussed the company (RPC) startup. Coincidentally, they each had Atomic Fireballs with them at the time! That led to RPC's "synergistic" connection with Fireballs...from the beginning!

That connection with Atomic Fireballs ultimately led to RPC's well-known slogan, "We're hot on quality!" which is printed on the fireball packets included in the product packages shipped from RPC.



Interview with an Expert

1. How did you get into the dialysis industry?

Choosing dialysis as a profession was a matter of chance, rather than planning. After being honorably discharged from the Navy as a corpsman (medic) during the Vietnam War, I entered the civilian world looking for a job. The opportunities for a veteran were somewhat limited and I saw in the newspaper a job opening for "Dialysis Technician." There were no specific qualifications required, but a note that indicated medical experience preferred. I left the military in May of 1975 and was interviewed and accepted the position for the dialysis technician in June of 1975.



Danilo Concepcion

Operations Manager, Renal Services
Orange, CA

2. What are some common challenges that dialysis patients face, and how do you support them in overcoming them?

As with all individuals, the challenges that life brings us is all individualistic, even with the person on dialysis. Day-to-day living, family, finances, and societal challenges are compounded with the challenges of treatment schedules, doctor's visits, the need to take medications, following strict instructions of what to avoid, how much to drink and all the other demands of being an ESKD patient are common challenges. Being a thoughtful, caring dialysis technician is a small task that we can provide in helping them through these challenges.

3. Can you share any stories or experiences that have had a significant impact on your approach to dialysis care?

Dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment, but a very life-threatening procedure. One mistake can cost the person on dialysis their life. I witnessed a death of a patient due to extreme air introduction into the extracorporeal system. Granted, it was old technology, but the reality still existed that so much reliance was placed on the technology that there was a relaxation by the caregiver in the diligence and focus to the patient. The result was the patient received a massive amount of air. The experience that I had was to recognize and accept that technology cannot be the foremost line of safety for our patients. It is the caregiver who must be continually monitoring, being diligent to keep the patient safe.

4. Can you discuss the impact of dialysis on the overall quality of life for patients?

Receiving dialysis on a scheduled basis is an intrusion into the patient and the patient's family's daily life. But, without dialysis the end consequence is inevitable. Dialysis can maintain their physical quality, but it requires the whole Kidney Care team, the patient, and the family support to truly maintain the quality of life.

5. What are some of the latest advancements in dialysis, and how have they impacted patient care?

There have been so many advancements in the dialysis machine, the dialyzer, the water systems, the EMR, artificial intelligence, medications that have improved safety and efficiency of dialysis. An entire book can be written on this question.

6. What advice do you have for someone entering their career in dialysis as a technician?

Being a Kidney Care Technician (I don't like the term Patient Care Technician) is not a job, it's a profession. Don't be satisfied with learning just to put-on/take-off procedure but learn the why's and how's of everything you do. Be engaged, be outspoken, be passionate about the profession.

7. Where do you see things evolving in the dialysis industry?

Kidney disease affects more than 1 in 7 American adults; 9 out of 10 people with kidney disease are unaware that they have it. So, the message is that the dialysis industry is here to stay for quite a long, long time, unless a miracle drug is invented. The executive order to put more patients at home and transplanted will not eliminate the outpatient dialysis setting. The obvious question is the Medicare ESRD program and how much can it sustain our industry. Technology, practices, medication will always evolve for the better, but as in all healthcare settings, the dialysis industry is being mandated to do things smarter and still maintain the highest quality, with sometimes less resources.

Test Strip Do's and Don'ts



- **Do take a color blindness test before using test strips**
- **Do adhere to instructions for use (IFU)**
- **Do understand color interpolation**
- **Do know test substance safe limit/range**
- **Do understand “zero” color**
- **Do comply with storage and shelf life**
- **Do make use of RPC's Certi-Chek™ program to document accuracy of test strip performance**
- **Do contact RPC for support or with questions**

- Do **not** expect chlorine amount in tap water to be consistent or uniform
- Do **not** compare test strip results to less accurate test methods
- Do **not** use test strips that are expired or show discoloration direct from container
- Do **not** laminate, cover or modify color charts

Adrian's Technical Corner



“Hello, my name is Adrian Bachelier, and I am a technical support specialist for RPC. I am passionate about providing excellent customer support and ensuring customers have a seamless experience with our products. In the upcoming issues, I will be providing answers to common questions related to RPC products and other helpful tips. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am always happy to help!”
- Adrian

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You can find us at these tradeshow in 2024!

NANT - Las Vegas, NV

USRC - Las Vegas, NV

ANNA - Orlando, FL

ASN - San Diego, CA



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Technical Resources

Technical Support

<https://rpc-rabrenco.com/technical-support>

RPC Catalog

<https://rpc-rabrenco.com/digital-catalog>