

American
National
Standard

ANSI/AAMI
BF7:2012

Blood transfusion
microfilters

Objectives and uses of AAMI standards and recommended practices

It is most important that the objectives and potential uses of an AAMI product standard or recommended practice are clearly understood. The objectives of AAMI's technical development program derive from AAMI's overall mission: the advancement of medical instrumentation. Essential to such advancement are (1) a continued increase in the safe and effective application of current technologies to patient care, and (2) the encouragement of new technologies. It is AAMI's view that standards and recommended practices can contribute significantly to the advancement of medical instrumentation, provided that they are drafted with attention to these objectives and provided that arbitrary and restrictive uses are avoided.

A voluntary *standard* for a *medical device* recommends to the manufacturer the information that should be provided with or on the product, basic safety and performance criteria that should be considered in qualifying the device for clinical use, and the measurement techniques that can be used to determine whether the device conforms with the safety and performance criteria and/or to compare the performance characteristics of different products. Some standards emphasize the information that should be provided with the device, including performance characteristics, instructions for use, warnings and precautions, and other data considered important in ensuring the safe and effective use of the device in the clinical environment. Recommending the disclosure of performance characteristics often necessitates the development of specialized test methods to facilitate uniformity in reporting; reaching consensus on these tests can represent a considerable part of committee work. When a drafting committee determines that clinical concerns warrant the establishment of *minimum* safety and performance criteria, referee tests must be provided and the reasons for establishing the criteria must be documented in the rationale.

A *recommended practice* provides guidelines for the use, care, and/or processing of a medical device or system. A recommended practice does not address device performance *per se*, but rather procedures and practices that will help ensure that a device is used safely and effectively and that its performance will be maintained.

Although a device standard is primarily directed to the manufacturer, it may also be of value to the potential purchaser or user of the device as a frame of reference for device evaluation. Similarly, even though a recommended practice is usually oriented towards healthcare professionals, it may be useful to the manufacturer in better understanding the environment in which a medical device will be used. Also, some recommended practices, while not addressing device performance criteria, provide guidelines to industrial personnel on such subjects as sterilization processing, method of collecting data to establish safety and efficacy, human engineering, and other processing or evaluation techniques; such guidelines may be useful to health care professionals, in addition to industrial practices.

In determining whether an AAMI standard or recommended practice is relevant to the specific needs of a potential user of the document, several important concepts must be recognized:

All AAMI standards and recommended practices are *voluntary* (i.e., of course, they are adopted by government regulatory or procurement authorities). The application of a standard or recommended practice is solely within the discretion and professional judgment of the user of the document.

Each AAMI standard or recommended practice reflects the collective expertise of a committee of health care professionals and industrial representatives, whose work has been reviewed nationally (and sometimes internationally). As such, the consensus recommendations embodied in a standard or recommended practice are intended to respond to clinical needs and, ultimately, to help ensure patient safety. A standard or recommended practice is limited, however, in the sense that it responds generally to perceived risks and conditions that may not always be relevant to specific situations. A standard or recommended practice is an important *reference* in responsible decision-making, but it should never *replace* responsible decision-making.

Despite periodic review and revision (at least once every five years), a standard or recommended practice is necessarily a static document applied to a dynamic technology. Therefore, a standards user must carefully review the reasons why the document was initially developed and the specific rationale for each of its provisions. This review will reveal whether the document remains relevant to the specific needs of the user.

Particular care should be taken in applying a product standard to existing devices and equipment, and in applying a recommended practice to current procedures and practices. While observed or potential risks with existing equipment typically form the basis for the safety and performance criteria defined in a standard, professional judgment must be used in applying these criteria to existing equipment. No single source of information will serve to identify a particular product as "unsafe". A voluntary standard can be used as one resource, but the ultimate decision as to product safety and efficacy must take into account the specifics of its utilization and, of course, cost-benefit considerations. Similarly, a recommended practice should be analyzed in the context of the specific needs and resources of the individual institution or firm. Again, the rationale accompanying each AAMI standard and recommended practice is an excellent guide to the reasoning and data underlying its provision.

In summary, a standard or recommended practice is truly useful only when it is used in conjunction with other sources of information and policy guidance and in the context of professional experience and judgment.

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Requests for interpretations of AAMI standards and recommended practices must be made in writing, to the AAMI Vice President, Standards Policy and Programs. An official interpretation must be approved by letter ballot of the originating committee and subsequently reviewed and approved by the AAMI Standards Board. The interpretation will become official and representation of the Association only upon exhaustion of any appeals and upon publication of notice of interpretation in the "Standards Monitor" section of the *AAMI News*. The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation disclaims responsibility for any characterization or explanation of a standard or recommended practice which has not been developed and communicated in accordance with this procedure and which is not published, by appropriate notice, as an *official interpretation* in the *AAMI News*.

American National Standard

ANSI/AAMI BF7:2012
(Revision of ANSI/AAMI BF7:1989/(R)2011)

Blood transfusion microfilters

Developed by
Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation

Approved 30 November 2012 by
American National Standards Institute, Inc.

Abstract: This standard contains labeling requirements, performance requirements, test methods, and terminology for disposable blood transfusion microfilters for use with adult populations to remove microaggregates from blood or blood products during transfusion.

Keywords: blood, capacity, flow, interface, labeling, performance, volume

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Glossary of equivalent standards

International Standards adopted in the United States may include normative references to other International Standards. AAMI maintains a current list of each International Standard that has been adopted by AAMI (and ANSI). Available on the AAMI website at the address below, this list gives the corresponding U.S. designation and level of equivalency to the International Standard.

www.aami.org/standards/glossary.pdf

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Committee representation

Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation

Blood Filter Committee

This standard was developed by the AAMI Blood Filter Committee. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval.

At the time this document was published, the **AAMI Blood Filter Committee** had the following members:

Cochairs: David Louis Reich, MD
Donald Sherratt

Members: Phillip Bendick, Beaumont Services Company LLC
Dawn Desiderio, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Trevor C. Huang, PhD MBA, Medtronic Perfusion Systems
Melissa S. Pessin, MD PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Betsy Poindexter, U.S. Food and Drug Administration/Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research
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George Silvay, MD, PhD, Mount Sinai Medical Center
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Catherine Wentz, US Food and Drug Administration/Center for Devices and Radiological Health

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Jaroslav G. Vostal, MD, PhD, U.S. Food and Drug Administration/Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

NOTE—Participation by federal agency representatives in the development of this standard does not constitute endorsement by the federal government or any of its agencies.

Foreword

This standard was developed by the Blood Filter Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation. The objective of this standard is to describe those requirements which will ensure adequate delivery of filtered stored blood and blood components while removing microaggregates without traumatizing blood components. This standard contains referee test methods to be used to ensure that the performance requirements are met.

Establishing compliance with this standard may involve the use of hazardous materials, operations, and/or equipment. Therefore, users of this document should establish appropriate safety practices and proceed with caution.

This standard reflects the conscientious efforts of concerned health care professionals, in consultation with medical device manufacturers, to develop a standard for those performance levels that could be reasonably achieved at this time.

AAMI and ANSI procedures require that standards be reviewed every five years and, if necessary, revised to reflect technological advances that may have occurred since publication.

As used within the context of this document, “shall” indicates requirements strictly to be followed to conform to the recommended practice. “Should” indicates that among several possibilities, one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required, or that (in the negative form) a certain possibility or course of action should be avoided but is not prohibited. “May” is used to indicate that a course of action is permissible within the limits of the recommended practice. “Can” is used as a statement of possibility and capability. Finally, “must” is used only to describe “unavoidable” situations, including those mandated by government regulation.

The concepts incorporated in this document should not be considered inflexible or static. This standard, like any other, must be reviewed and updated periodically to assimilate progressive technological developments. To remain relevant, it must be modified as technological advances are made and as new data come to light.

Suggestions for improving this document are invited. Comments and suggested revisions should be sent to Standards Department, AAMI, 4301 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, VA 22203-1633.

NOTE—This foreword is not a part of the American National Standard *Blood transfusion microfilters* (ANSI/AAMI BF7:2012).

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Blood transfusion microfilters

1 Scope

1.1 General

This standard describes safety and performance requirements for disposable microfilters used for the removal of microaggregates from blood or blood products during transfusion.

1.2 Inclusions

Included within the scope of this standard are disposable microfilters for blood and blood-derivative transfusions for adult populations only. These are sometimes also referred to as microaggregate filters.

1.3 Exclusions

Excluded from the scope of this standard are filters used for extracorporeal service and other blood filters not intended for blood transfusion. Also excluded are components of standard infusion sets designed to remove readily visible blood clots only.

NOTE For an explanation of the need for this standard, as well as the rationale for its provisions, see Annex A.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. AAMI maintains a register of currently valid AAMI technical documents.

2.1 *United States Pharmacopeia*. Easton, PA: Mack Publishing.

2.2 ASTM. *Method of test for pore size characteristics of membrane filters for use with aerospace fluids*. ANSI/ASTM D2499-69. Philadelphia: ASTM International, 1969.

2.3 SAE. *Bubble point test method*. ARP-901. Warrendale, PA: Society of Automotive Engineers, 1968.

2.4 ASTM. *Particles from aerospace fluids: Microscopical sizing and counting on membrane filters*. ANSI/ASTM F312-69. Philadelphia: ASTM International, 1969.

2.5 SAE. *Procedure for the determination of particulate contamination of hydraulic fluids by the particle count method*. ARP-598. Warrendale, PA: Society of Automotive Engineers, 1960 (1969).

2.6 AAMI. *Biological evaluation of medical devices, Part 4: Selection of tests for interactions with blood*. ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-04:2002/(R)2009. Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, 2002/(R) 2009.