

Endoscope Dry Leak Test and Maintenance of the Leak Tester

1. Purpose

This procedure details the process for dry leak testing (where required by the endoscope manufacturer) of used endoscopes prior to manual cleaning.

2. Responsibilities

This activity is carried out by staff trained and competent in the methods of dry leak testing appropriate to the endoscope being tested.

Management should ensure that the endoscope manufacturer's instructions and this procedure are available and followed. Management should ensure that staff are trained on this procedure. Management take any required action when there is a non-conformance confirmed (PRO 179-200).

All staff shall adhere to Standard infection control precautions listed in **National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM)** Health Protection Scotland www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/

3. Procedure

3.1 Inspection for damage

- inspect the endoscope for damage during the leak test;
- if the endoscope is found to be damaged follow (PRO 179-60/PRO 179-520R);
- if the endoscope inspection is satisfactory continue with the dry leak testing.

3.2 Dry Leak Testing

Follow manufacturer's instructions for connection and use of the dry leak tester:

- using the inflation bulb squeeze until the needle reaches the recommended level;
- if the needle stays in the advised position it is safe to progress on to the next stage of the decontamination process;
- if the needle falls below the recommended level a leak has been detected;
- if there is a leak:
 - inform the manager;
 - open the valve on the leak tester;
 - wait to allow deflation of air from the endoscope;
 - disconnect the leak testing equipment;

- manager to repeat for confirmation of failure, if required;
- undertake a non-immersion manual wash on the endoscope;
- place the endoscope into a cleaned tray with lid;
- label as not for use/for repair;
- quarantine the endoscope to prevent it being used;
- pass to the manager for further action.

3.3 Maintenance of the dry leakage tester

- maintain the dry leakage tester in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- wipe down the unit surface with a suitable detergent solution as per the manufacturer's instructions at the start of the day and at the end of the endoscope list;
- periodically inspect the unit for signs of damage or deterioration to the unit, the connectors or the external tubing used with those connectors.