

# Automated Processing in an EWD

## 1. Purpose

This procedure details the process for loading, operating and unloading an Endoscope Washer Disinfector (EWD).

## 2. Responsibilities

This activity is carried out by staff trained and competent in the use of automated Endoscope Washer Disinfectors (EWDs).

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/](http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/)

## 3. Procedure

**Note:** Check that all periodic testing and maintenance have been carried out before use.

Ensure unique identification numbers/identification tags are available for all relevant staff and endoscopes.

Loading the EWD:

- open the EWD chamber;
- fit any protective caps/covers to the endoscope(s);
- in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions connect all working endoscope channels to the load carrier if used and place the endoscope(s) into the EWD basin/chamber;
- ensure any auxiliary channel or razorbridge components are connected if present;
- place all reusable accessories into the dedicated holder recommended by the EWD manufacturer.

Operating the EWD:

- enter staff identification number and the number of the endoscope on loading;
- close the door and start the appropriate cycle;

#### Unloading the EWD:

- check the EWD shows a completed cycle before unloading and ensure the inspection area has been cleaned;
- enter staff identification number prior to unloading the endoscope from the EWD;
- open the EWD;
- check all working channels remain connected and port covers are in place;
- disconnect the endoscope(s) and place at the clean inspection area or at the drying area if manual drying is required;
- place all reusable accessories into the dedicated holder recommended by the endoscope manufacturer;
- keep reusable accessories and any documentation required with the endoscope and label clearly with the endoscope number;
- confirm that the cycle and endoscope numbers have been recorded (PRO 179-550R);
- decontaminate the transport containers and transport trolley as per the NIPCM.

#### Cycle failure:

- in the event of cycle failure re-check all previous steps and attempt to identify the issue. If the issue is not identified, follow local procedure for service or repair. Refer to SOP on management of non conformances (PRO 179-200).