

Identifying the Method/Conditions for Processing of Endoscopes

1. Purpose

This procedure details the process of identifying the method/conditions for processing of all endoscopes. The terminal stage could be high level disinfection or sterilization as required.

2. Responsibilities

This work is carried out by staff trained and competent in the decontamination of endoscopes.

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

- the User generates a list of all devices (see record form PRO 179-500R) used indicating the chosen method of processing based on the manufacturer's instructions, which include the decontamination state required (high level disinfected or sterile), the decontamination process, type of equipment used, packaging, etc. Ensure a system allowing the tracking and tracing of each endoscope passing through all stages of the decontamination process (see record form PRO 179-550R) and tracking of endoscopes to the patients is in place.

The following should be considered for incorporation in the Decontamination Manual:

- update the endoscope list regularly when new devices or equipment are introduced in the department;
- where the manufacturer's instructions provide several options for decontamination methods, carry out a risk assessment as to which method should be followed;
- base the assessment on:
 - the compatibility of the devices with the decontamination process and equipment;
 - the efficacy of the process;

- the intended use of the devices (i.e. degree of invasiveness, type of tissue in contact with the devices);
- safety, residue, environmental impact and cost;
- the availability of decontamination facilities, equipment and reprocessing time;
- the preferred option is a validated automated decontamination process.

Nasendoscopes

- nasendoscopes are processed in automated Endoscope Washer Disinfectors. It is recognised that in the case of nasendoscopes high level disinfection may be carried out on an interim basis through the use of a multi wipe system (Refer to SOP PRO 179-270);
- where this is the case update the risk register with a plan to move these nasendoscopes to processing through an automated endoscope washer disinfector.