

Use of Flushing Units to Assist in Manual Cleaning

1. Purpose

This procedure details the use of validated flushing units to assist in the manual cleaning of endoscopes and their accessories, within the Endoscope Decontamination Unit.

2. Responsibilities

This activity is carried out by competent staff, trained in the manual cleaning of endoscopes and the use of flushing devices.

Management should ensure that this procedure is available and followed by all staff involved in the decontamination process. Management should ensure that staff are trained on this procedure. Management take any required action when there is a non-conformance confirmed.

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

Note: Use the flushing unit after carrying out a full manual clean as described by the endoscope manufacturer.

Ensure any flushing units have been validated by the manufacturer for use with the endoscopes in use.

Where the flushing device has multiple functions the User or unit manager selects the stages of the process where the flushing device is used.

The User or manufacturer's representative access and amend the Programme selection.

Ensure that where the flushing device has a leak test function, the endoscope manufacturer confirms it is suitable for use.

Flush the endoscope using the flushing unit as follows:

- fill the wash sink with water to the level indicator on the up-stand overflow tube or sink;
- place the 'Liquid in hose' in clean water or detergent solution as required at each stage of the process. (A dedicated container of detergent solution should be used);

- connect the flushing unit liquid and or air out hose to the endoscope;
- operate as per the manufacturer's instructions;
- confirm that all accessible lumens (as specified by the endoscope manufacturer's instructions) have been flushed paying special attention to any razorbridge components if present;
- drain excess liquid before transferring the endoscope to the next workstation and note that some flushing devices may have a purge cycle for this purpose;
- rinse the endoscope and accessories with clean water;
- drain or purge the endoscope then place on the clean set down area;
- acknowledge each stage in the process and that all actions have been completed satisfactorily;
- complete the manual wash record and sign;
- enter operator ID and scope details into the tracking system;
- clean all sinks before reuse.

Maintenance of the flushing unit:

- before each use visually inspect the flushing unit for signs of damage or deterioration including the connectors and the external tubing used with those connectors;
- after each use wipe down the unit surface and screen with a specified solution;
- carry out self-purging of the unit daily;
- carry out self-disinfection of the flushing unit periodically using specified chemical and self-disinfection cycle as defined by the manufacturer's instructions;
- carry out weekly device self-testing of printer, air pump and liquid pump.