

Initial Endoscope Cleaning Process in the Clinical Area

1. Purpose

This procedure details the endoscope decontamination steps to be undertaken in the clinical area to facilitate the initial cleaning process in line with the endoscope manufacturer's instructions. The process may vary depending on the make and model of the endoscope.

2. Responsibilities

Clinical staff will undertake this procedure; all staff must be trained and competent in the methods of cleaning an endoscope.

All staff will 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

This procedure is undertaken immediately after the clinical procedure and before disconnecting the endoscope from the stacking system/light source/video processor;

- inspect the endoscope for any malfunction or physical damage. Where damage is found complete a damage report and communicate the problem to the Endoscope Decontamination Unit (EDU);
- fill a single use container with 500ml of detergent solution compatible with the endoscope as per the endoscope manufacturer's instructions;
- immerse a clean non-linting cloth in the solution and wipe the exterior surface of the insertion tube from the control handle to the distal end;
- discard contaminated cloth in clinical waste;
- for endoscopes with lumens, place the distal end into the detergent solution and depress the "suction button" until clean fluid is seen in the suction tubing;
- repeat previous step with clean water;
- flush the air and water channels as instructed by the manufacturer;
- immerse the distal end of the endoscope in the clean water and depress in the following order:
 - air-fully depress to ensure the channel is clear (bubble for time recommended in Manufacturer's Instructions For Users (MIFU));
 - water- depress to ensure the channel is clear (clean water should flow from the attached water bottle and exit the distal end of the endoscope);

- if applicable remove the blue air/water valve and replace with the air/water flush button and flush for 30 seconds.
- where there is an auxiliary channel or razor bridge connect the washing tube to the elevator channel, flush with detergent and rinse with clean water as described in MIFU;
- remove all single use items from the area and place them into the appropriate waste stream;
- place the endoscope in the lined transport tray and fit the cover/lid. Ensure the tray is labelled 'Contaminated' or 'Used medical device';
- move the endoscope scope trolley and tray to the designated area for collection by EDU staff;
- inform the EDU that the endoscope is ready for collection as soon as possible after the procedure;
- clean the treatment area following SICPs, unless blood or body fluids are present; in which case the area must be decontaminated as per the NIPCM.