INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

AS-5369:2023: Australian Standard™ Reprocessing of reusable medical devices (RMD) and other devices in health and non-health related facilites

PROTECT YOUR PATIENTS. PROTECT YOUR PRACTICE.

Reprocessing an RMD is a multistep process that includes cleaning, disinfection, inspection and assembly, testing, packaging and sterilisation, transport and storage with appropriate handling to render them safe for reuse

Minimise the risk

- **Practice hand hygiene:** In accordance with the 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene. Don suitable gloves for invasive procedures.
- **Use aseptic technique:** Maintain an aspetic field to prevent contamination during semi-critical and critical procedures.
- **Routine education recommended:** Complete infection prevention and control modules on practice as required, and in line with facility or other requirements.
- **Risk assessment & documentation:** Access and document protocols for handling and storing RMDs

Reprocessing the transducer

Step 1: Cleaning the transducer

- **Dedicated reprocessing area:** Set up a clearly defined space with unidirectional workflow to prevent cross contamination
- **Approved cleaning products**: Use Class I cleaning agents listed on the ARTG, or cleaning agents listed on the NZ Medsafe website, for safe and effective cleaning
- **Remove all debris from the transducer:** Including gel, organic matter, and residual cleaning agent to achieve a clean and dry transducer prior to HLD

Step 2: High Level Disinfection (HLD)

- **Validated disinfection:** Only use Class IIb disinfection products listed on the ARTG, or disinfection products listed on the NZ Medsafe website, to meet national safety standards
- **Traceable reprocessing cycles.** Document every cycle with: Date, patient name, procedure performed, serial number of RMD used, person reprocessing (connecting and removal), reprocessing method, cycle parameters (brand/batch number, expiry date, evidence of cycle result)

TRANSDUCER REPROCESSING GUIDELINES

Surface transducer
Intact skin

Ultrasound guided invasive procedure
Transducer does not contact needle or puncture site

Surface transducer
Broken skin, mucous membrane, blood, or body fluids

Ultrasound guided invasive procedure
Transducer comes in contact with needle or puncture site

Endo-cavity transducer
Mucous membranes, open wounds

Non-critical

Low level (LLD) or intermediate level (ILD) disinfection

CLEANING
Remove gross contamination and ensure grooves are cleaned

STORAGE
Non-critical devices should be stored in a clean, dry place to minimise environmental contamination

Semi-critical

High level disinfection (HLD)

CLEANING
Remove gross contamination and ensure grooves are cleaned Under AS:5369 the use of a transducer cover does not negate the requirement for disinfection to the required level

STORAGE
Semi-critical devices should be kept in a designated storage system to avoid environmental contamination