

APIC Great Lakes: 2024 Educational Webinar Series

Hot Topics in Endoscope Reprocessing

May 21, 2024

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APIC Great Lakes
Chapter
Virtual Education
Webinar

05-21-24

Hot Topics in Endoscope Processing

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Healthcare career - More than 45 years.

- 20+ years in Endoscopy.
- 4 years system role – overseeing HLD and endoscope processing for academic health system. Launch of the Centralized Endoscope Reprocessing Department on the main medical campus.
- 5 years Healthmark Educator

Memberships:

- APIC, AAMI, SGNA, ASGE, AORN.

Disclosures

- Presenter is an employee of Healthmark Industries - Fraser, Michigan USA – a manufacturer and distributor of medical products to healthcare facilities and healthcare professionals.
- No compensation has been received for this presentation
- All opinions are those of the presenter.
- This presentation is not intended to be used as a training guide or promotion. Before using any medical device, review all relevant package inserts with particular attention to the indications, contraindications, warnings and precautions, and steps for the use of the device(s).

Healthmark Policy



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This goal is supported by a **staff committed to individual accountability, professionalism, mutual respect, collaboration and service excellence**. This presentation is part of that commitment, **educating our customers**.

Objectives

- Update on most current guidelines for endoscope processing.
- Overview of latest hot topics in endoscope processing.
- Discuss the future of sterilizing endoscopes and other endoscope trends and technology.





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A Passion for Safety & Quality

Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns

The most trusted voice in healthcare,
committed to identifying and addressing
patient safety challenges

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Significance
and risk
is not waning

ECRI Top Ten Lists - <https://www.ecri.org>

2018 –

**#2 - Endoscope Reprocessing
Failures Continue to Expose
Patients to Infection Risk**

Significance
and risk
is not waning

ECRI Top Ten Lists - <https://www.ecri.org>

2018 –

#2 - Endoscope Reprocessing
Failures Continue to Expose
Patients to Infection Risk

2019 –

#5 - Mishandling Flexible
Endoscopes after Disinfection
Can Lead to Patient Infections



ECRI Top Ten Lists - <https://www.ecri.org>

2018 –

#2 - Endoscope Reprocessing Failures Continue to Expose Patients to Infection Risk

2019 –

#5 - Mishandling Flexible Endoscopes after Disinfection Can Lead to Patient Infections

2020 –

#4 - Responding to and Learning from Device Problems

#5 - Device Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization

#6 - Standardizing Safety across the System

Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2021



Organizations across the continuum of care are striving to become high-reliability organizations, and part of being highly reliable means staying vigilant and identifying problems proactively. This annual Top 10 list helps organizations identify imminent patient safety challenges and offers suggestions and resources for addressing them.

The List for 2021

1. Racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare
2. Emergency preparedness and response in aging services
3. Pandemic preparedness across the health system
4. Supply chain interruptions
5. Drug shortages
6. Telehealth workflow challenges
7. Improvised use of medical devices
8. Methotrexate therapy
9. Peripheral vascular harm
10. Infection risk from aerosol-generating procedures

COVID-19: Exposing Entrenched Problems in Healthcare

Many of the items on this year's Top 10 list relate to COVID-19. The pandemic threatens patients and staff directly and indirectly and has been a disruptive force in healthcare and in our daily lives. Beyond that, the pandemic has laid bare some of the most entrenched problems in healthcare. By learning lessons from the pandemic, we can improve safety not just for this and future pandemics, but for all patient and resident care.

2018 –

#2 - Endoscope Reprocessing Failures
Continue to Expose Patients to Infection Risk

2019 –

#5 - Mishandling Flexible Endoscopes after
Disinfection Can Lead to Patient Infections

2020 –

#4 - Responding to and Learning from
Device Problems

#5 - Device Cleaning, Disinfection, and
Sterilization

#6 - Standardizing Safety across the System

2021 -

#3 - Pandemic preparedness across the health system

#4 - Supply chain interruptions

#10 - Infection risk from aerosol-generating procedures



Poor Duodenoscope Reprocessing Ergonomics and Workflows Put Healthcare Workers and Patients at Risk

8

The failure to adequately reprocess contaminated duodenoscopes between uses is a well-known hazard, one that has led to the spread of deadly pathogens. Perhaps less well known are the risks of injury to the healthcare workers who perform this function, and the ways in which ergonomic and workflow factors can compromise reprocessing effectiveness, putting patients at risk.

A 2021 ECRI survey of healthcare workers who routinely perform duodenoscope reprocessing—that is, cleaning and disinfection (or sterilization)—identified several significant patient and worker safety hazards:

- Obstacles to effective reprocessing, potentially increasing patient infection risks. Survey respondents cited time pressures and poor work environment ergonomics (e.g., work surfaces at an uncomfortable height) as key concerns.

- The continued use of duodenoscopes with fixed distal endcaps, instead of scopes with single-use components. Duodenoscopes with fixed distal endcaps are more difficult to reprocess effectively, putting patients at increased risk of infection.
- A higher risk of healthcare worker musculoskeletal injuries due to poor workspace ergonomics

Correcting these problems requires facilities to take a close look at the workflow, the workspaces and surfaces, and the expected turnaround times for duodenoscope reprocessing, as well as reevaluating the use of reusable duodenoscopes.

Ergonomic and workflow factors
can compromise reprocessing
effectiveness, putting patients at risk.

Top 10 Health Technology Hazards for 2022

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Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2022

Self-Assessment: Establishing a Health Information Technology Safety Program ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Self-Assessment: EHR Vendor Checklist ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Detecting Changes in Patient Condition

Communication ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Aging Services Risk Management](#))

Documentation: A Primer on Charting in the Medical Record ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Aging Services Risk Management](#), [Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Nursing Liability ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Clinical Alarms ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Beat the Buzzer: The Alarm Safety Game Show! ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Triage Toolkit ([Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Culture of Safety and the Infrastructure for Safety

Culture of Safety: An Overview ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Aging Services Risk Management](#), [Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Measuring Safety Culture ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Aging Services Risk Management](#), [Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Aging Services Risk Management](#))

Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality ([Health System Risk Management](#))

The Role of the Patient Safety Officer ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Culture of Safety 101 Training Program ([Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Device Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization

[ECRI's Infection Prevention and Control Services](#)

Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Recurrent Patient Safety Challenges

Reprocessing of Flexible Endoscopes ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Overview of Infection Prevention and Control ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Aging Services Risk Management](#))

Infection Prevention and Control ([Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Self-Assessment: Instrument Sterilization and Disinfection Practices ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Environmental Infection Control Toolkit ([Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Care Fragmentation and Poor Care Coordination

Deep Dive: Care Coordination ([ECRI and the ISMP PSO](#))

Inpatient Care Coordination ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Discharge Planning ([Health System Risk Management](#))

Transitions of Care ([Aging Services Risk Management](#))

Subacute Care ([Aging Services Risk Management](#))

Care Coordination and Transitions ([Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Guidance for Patient Safety Toolkit: Handoff Communication ([ECRI and the ISMP PSO](#))

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Physician Leader Huddle: Antimicrobial Stewardship ([ECRI and the ISMP PSO](#))

Overview of Infection Prevention and Control ([Health System Risk Management](#), [Aging Services Risk Management](#))

Infection Prevention and Control ([Ambulatory Care Risk Management](#))

Patient Identification

Deep Dive: Patient Identification ([ECRI and the ISMP PSO](#))

Patient Identification: Implementation Guide and Toolkit ([Partnership for Health IT Patient Safety](#))

Recurrent Patient Safety Challenges

Over the years, the following patient safety concerns have made repeat appearances on ECRI's list of Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns; the list begins with the most frequently mentioned:

- Medication safety
- Diagnostic stewardship and test result management
- Behavioral health
- Health IT
- Detecting changes in patient condition
- Workforce staffing, skills, and safety
- Culture of safety and the infrastructure for safety
- Device cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization
- Medical devices and supplies
- Telehealth and digital health
- Care fragmentation and poor care coordination
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Emergency preparedness
- Infection prevention and control
- Health equity
- Patient identification

2023

- Culture of safety and the infrastructure for safety
- Device cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization
- Medical devices and supplies
- Infection prevention and control

For links to key ECRI and ISMP resources for each of these topics, members can log in at ecri.org. For information on ECRI and ISMP memberships, contact client services at (610) 825-6000, ext. 5891, or clientservices@ecri.org.

2024 – ECRI Top Ten Health Technology Hazards

○ #2 - Inadequate or Onerous Device Cleaning Instructions Endanger Patients

- “Successful reprocessing is made more challenging, however, by the wide variation in the content, quality, and feasibility of reprocessing instructions...”
- “...incomplete, impractical, or onerous reprocessing instructions...”
- “...reprocessing considerations should be evaluated during the pre-purchase risk assessment of a product.”

Top 10 Health Technology Hazards for 2024

Executive Brief

ECRI is providing this Executive Brief describing its 2024 Top 10 list of health technology hazards to inform the healthcare community about key safety issues involving the use of medical devices and systems.

The List for 2024

1. Medical Devices May Pose Usability Challenges for Home Users, Risking Misuse and Patient Harm
2. Inadequate or Onerous Device Cleaning Instructions Endanger Patients
3. Sterile Drug Compounding without the Use of Technological Safeguards Increases the Risk of Medication Errors
4. Overlooked Environmental Impacts of Patient Care Endanger Public Health
5. Insufficient Governance of AI Used in Medical Technologies Risks Inappropriate Care Decisions
6. Ransomware Targeting the Healthcare Sector Remains a Critical Threat
7. Increased Burn Risk with Single-Foil Electrosurgical Return Electrodes
8. Infusion Pump Damage Remains a Medication Safety Concern
9. Poor QC of Implantable Orthopedic Products Can Lead to Surgical Delays and Patient Harm
10. Third-Party Web Analytics Software Can Compromise Patient Confidentiality

ECRI MEMBERS: LOG IN TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT

Detailed descriptions of the hazards outlined in this Executive Brief, along with ECRI's step-by-step recommendations for addressing them, are provided in the [2024 Top 10 Health Technology Hazards Solutions Kit](#). Members of ECRI programs can access the Solutions Kit through their membership web pages. For more information, contact clientservices@ecri.org; call +1 (610) 825-6000, ext. 5891; or visit www.ecri.org.

Suggested citation: ECRI. Top 10 Health Technology Hazards for 2024 Executive Brief. ECRI; 2024.

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DeviceEvaluation@ecri.org | 2

Regulations/Standards/Guidelines – U.S.

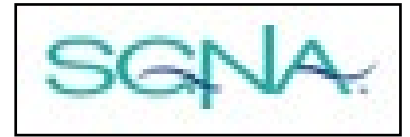
○ Regulations

- A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority
- Mandatory



○ Standards

- Requirements and specifications to ensure consistency and fit for purpose
- Voluntary, but can become mandatory



○ Guidelines, Recommended Practices, Technical Information reports

- Technical guidance, information or preferred procedures regarding a given topic
- Voluntary but with interpretation



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This is, and has been, a dynamic process —
stay connected and up-to-date

 **U.S. FOOD & DRUG**
ADMINISTRATION

Q SearchMenu

← Home / Medical Devices / Medical Device Safety / Safety Communications / The FDA is Recommending Transition to Duodenoscopes with Innovative Designs to Enhance Safety: FDA Safety Communication

The FDA is Recommending Transition to Duodenoscopes with Innovative Designs to Enhance Safety: FDA Safety Communication

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Safety Communications
[2020 Safety Communications](#)
[2019 Safety Communications](#)
[2018 Safety Communications](#)
[2017 Safety Communications](#)

Update as of April 10, 2020: The FDA continues to recommend that hospitals and endoscopy facilities transition to innovative duodenoscope designs to help improve cleaning and reduce contamination between patients, including designs with disposable caps or distal ends. When using these innovative duodenoscopes, remember to follow the manufacturer's instructions for the assembly of the caps and distal ends. The FDA is not aware of any patient injuries related to these innovative duodenoscope designs. However the manufacturers, Fujifilm, Pentax and Olympus have in total submitted 10 reports of device malfunctions, such as removable caps or ends falling off during endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). Of these device malfunctions, only three occurred with models that are marketed in the United States.

Content current as of:
07/24/2020

Duodenoscopes play a vital role in the assessment and treatment of diseases and conditions of the pancreas and bile ducts, and are used in more than 500,000 [endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography](#) (ERCP) procedures each year in the U.S. These devices have complex designs that include reusable hard-to-clean components. Failure to correctly [reprocess](#) a duodenoscope could result in tissue or fluid from one patient

 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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A-Z IndexSearchAdvanced Search

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Resources for Emergency Health Professionals > Health Alert Network (HAN) > HAN Archive > 2015

☐ Health Alert Network (HAN)
HAN Jurisdictions
HAN Message Types
Sign Up for HAN Updates
HAN Archive
2020
2019
2018
2017
2016

CDC/FDA Health Update about the Immediate Need for Healthcare Facilities to Review Procedures for Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sterilizing Reusable Medical Devices

Archived: This Page Is No Longer Being Updated

This information is *for historic and reference purposes only*. Content has not been updated since the last reviewed date at the bottom of this page.

 **Health Alert Network**

 This is an official CDC

Safety Communications

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Safety Communications

2024 Safety
Communications

2023 Safety
Communications

2022 Safety
Communications

The FDA posts Medical Device Safety Communications to describe the FDA's analysis of a current issue and provide specific regulatory approaches and clinical recommendations for patient management.

The most recent safety communications are listed by year. Older safety communications are denoted by (Archive).

Safety Communications

- [2024 Safety Communications](#)
- [2023 Safety Communications](#)
- [2022 Safety Communications](#)
- [2021 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2020 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2019 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2018 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2017 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2016 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2015 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2014 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2013 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2012 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [2011 Safety Communications](#) [↗](#) (Archived)
- [Safety Communications Issued Prior to 2011](#) [↗](#) (Archived)

Additional Resources

- [Report to Congress: Postmarket Device Safety-Related Communications](#)

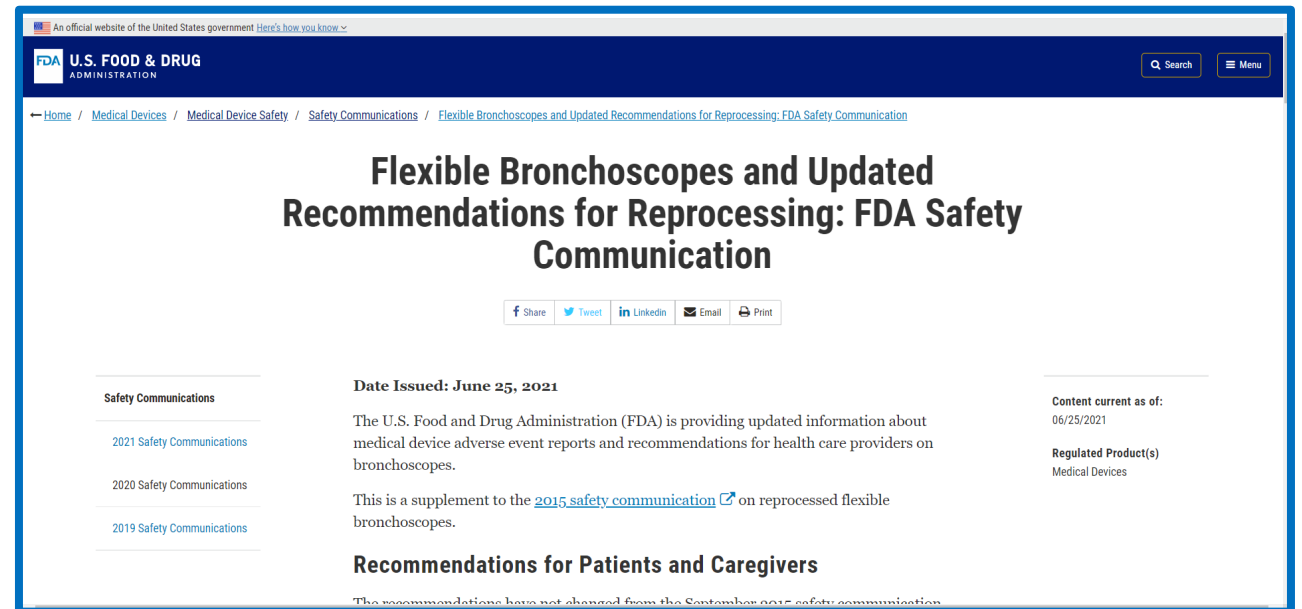
Content current as of:
02/21/2024

Regulated Product(s)
Medical Devices
Radiation-Emitting Products

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-device-safety/safety-communications>

06-25-21 - supplement to their 2015 safety communication re: **flexible bronchoscopes**.

- Reminder – carefully **follow manufacturers' IFUs**.
- Consider **sterilization** instead of HLD.
- Do not use damaged devices, or those failing leak tests.
- Routine **inspection and maintenance**.
- Consider **single-use bronchoscopes** where there is increased risk.
- Updated information on related **MAUDE reports**.



04-04-22 – significant reprocessing instruction change.

- FDA notice re: [patient infections and possible contamination issues](#) with [urological scopes](#).
- [Reprocessing failures identified](#) after FDA requested validation testing.
- Voluntary recall by manufacturer with urgent field safety notice – [discontinue HLD and LCS – sterilize instead](#).

The screenshot shows the FDA's official website for a medical device safety update. The header includes the FDA logo and navigation links. The main heading is 'UPDATE: Change in Reprocessing Methods with Certain Karl Storz Urological Endoscopes – Letter to Health Care Providers'. Below the heading are social media sharing options. The date 'April 4, 2022' is displayed. The text explains that the FDA is evaluating the risk of patient infections and contamination issues associated with reprocessed urological endoscopes, specifically those manufactured by Karl Storz. It states that the current reprocessing instructions are inadequate and are being updated. The affected endoscopes include cystoscopes, ureteroscopes, cystourethoscopes, and ureterorenoscopes. The text further details that in April 2021, the FDA communicated about reported patient infections and possible contamination issues, and that Karl Storz conducted reprocessing validation testing on a sample of flexible urological endoscopes, identifying reprocessing failures following high-level disinfection. It notes that inadequate reprocessing may increase the risk of patient infection. Finally, it states that on April 1, 2022, Karl Storz initiated a voluntary recall and issued an urgent field safety notice to instruct users to discontinue all high-level disinfection methods for all affected urological endoscopes and discontinue liquid chemical sterilization for most of the

04-05-22 – update to 04/2020 Safety Communication.

- Provides new information to support **transition to fully/partially disposable duodenoscopes**.
- Provides new information re: completed **postmarket surveillance studies**.
- HCF should **complete transition to newer duodenoscopes**.
- **Contamination rates:**
 - Older models – as high as **6%**.
 - One newer model with disposable components – **0.5%**

The screenshot shows the FDA's official website for a safety communication. The header includes the FDA logo and navigation links. The main title is "Use Duodenoscopes with Innovative Designs to Enhance Safety: FDA Safety Communication". Below the title are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, and Print. A sidebar on the left lists "Safety Communications" with links for 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019. The main content area states the date issued as April 5, 2022, and explains that the FDA is updating the April 2020 safety communication to provide new information supporting the transition to fully disposable duodenoscopes and those with disposable components. It also mentions that interim results from one duodenoscope model with a removable component show a contamination rate of just 0.5%, compared to older models with rates as high as 6%. The text concludes that use of newer models can reduce the risk of infection for patients. A section titled "Recommendations for Patients and Caregivers" is visible at the bottom.

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Home / Medical Devices / Medical Device Safety / Safety Communications / Use Duodenoscopes with Innovative Designs to Enhance Safety: FDA Safety Communication

Use Duodenoscopes with Innovative Designs to Enhance Safety: FDA Safety Communication

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Safety Communications

- 2022 Safety Communications
- 2021 Safety Communications
- 2020 Safety Communications
- 2019 Safety Communications

Date Issued: April 5, 2022

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is updating the [April 2020](#) Safety Communication to provide new information supporting the transition to fully disposable duodenoscopes and those with disposable components as well as new information on completed postmarket surveillance studies (also known as 522 studies).

Given the cleaning concerns and contamination data with fixed endcap duodenoscopes and the increasing availability of duodenoscope models that facilitate or eliminate the need for reprocessing, hospitals and endoscopy facilities should complete transition to innovative duodenoscope designs that include disposable components such as disposable endcaps, or to fully disposable duodenoscopes. The use of a removable component to facilitate cleaning leads to significantly less contamination; interim results from one duodenoscope model with a removable component show a contamination rate of just 0.5%, as compared to older duodenoscope models which had contamination rates as high as 6%. Use of the newer models of duodenoscopes can reduce the risk of infection for patients, compared to the older fixed endcap duodenoscope models. Duodenoscope manufacturers no longer market fixed endcap duodenoscopes in the US, and fixed endcap duodenoscopes still in use at healthcare facilities should be replaced with newer duodenoscope models.

Recommendations for Patients and Caregivers

Content current as of: 04/05/2022

Regulated Product(s)
Medical Devices

FDA recommendations

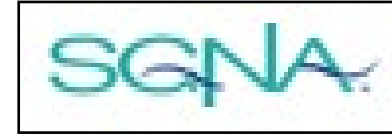


- Follow manufacturer's IFUs.
- Adhere to professional reprocessing guidelines.
- Have a comprehensive QC program.
- Required documentation:
 - Training
 - Competencies
 - Quality monitors

Regulations/Standards/Guidelines – U.S.

○ Standards

- Requirements and specifications to ensure consistency and fit for purpose
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○ Guidelines, Recommended Practices, Technical Information reports

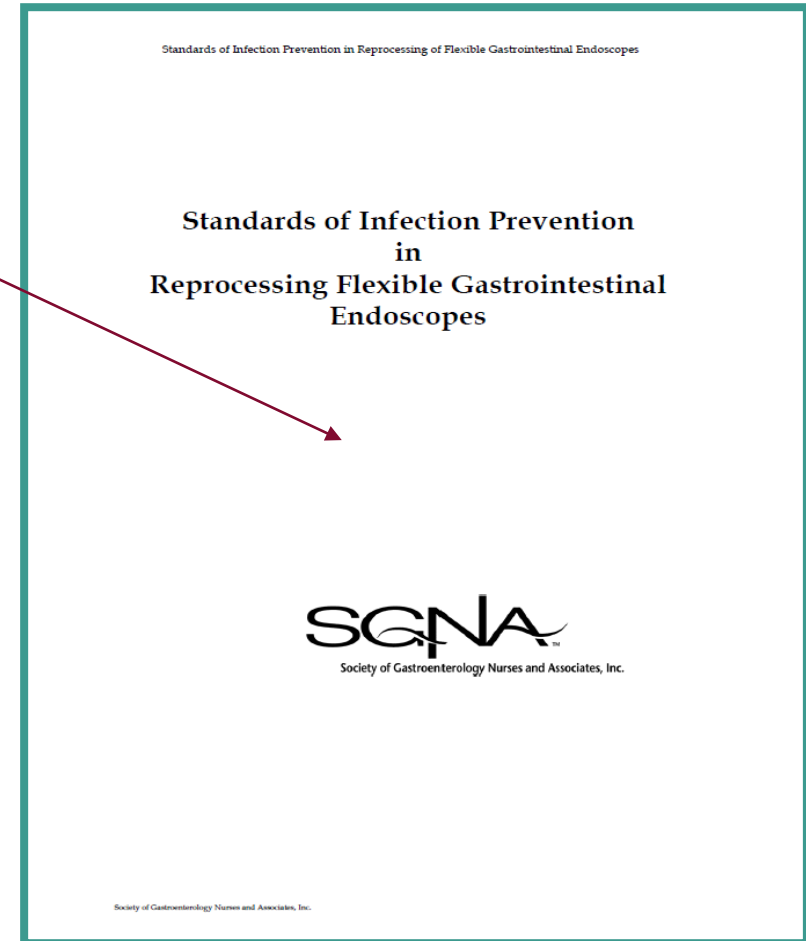
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Organization	SGNA - Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates	AORN - Association of periOperative Registered Nurses	AAMI - Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation	ASGE - American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Most recent year of publication	2023	2022	2022	2021
Standard/Guideline Title	Standards of Infection Prevention in Reprocessing of Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopes	Guidelines for Perioperative Practice: Flexible Endoscopes	ANSI/AAMI ST91: 2021 Flexible and semi-rigid endoscope processing in health care facilities	Multisociety guideline on reprocessing flexible GI endoscopes and accessories
Replaces previous publication year	2018	2019	2015	2016

SGNA Standards and Practice Guidelines

- Standards of Infection Prevention in Reprocessing of Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopes (2023)
- Standard of Infection Prevention in the Gastroenterology Setting (2019)
- Management of Endoscopic Accessories, Valves, and Water and Irrigation Bottles in the Gastroenterology Setting (2018)
- Guidelines for the Use of High-Level Disinfectants & Sterilants in the Gastroenterology Setting (2017)



<https://www.sgna.org/Practice/Standards-Practice-Guidelines>



MULTISOCIETY TASK FORCE ARTICLE



Multisociety guideline on reprocessing flexible GI endoscopes and accessories

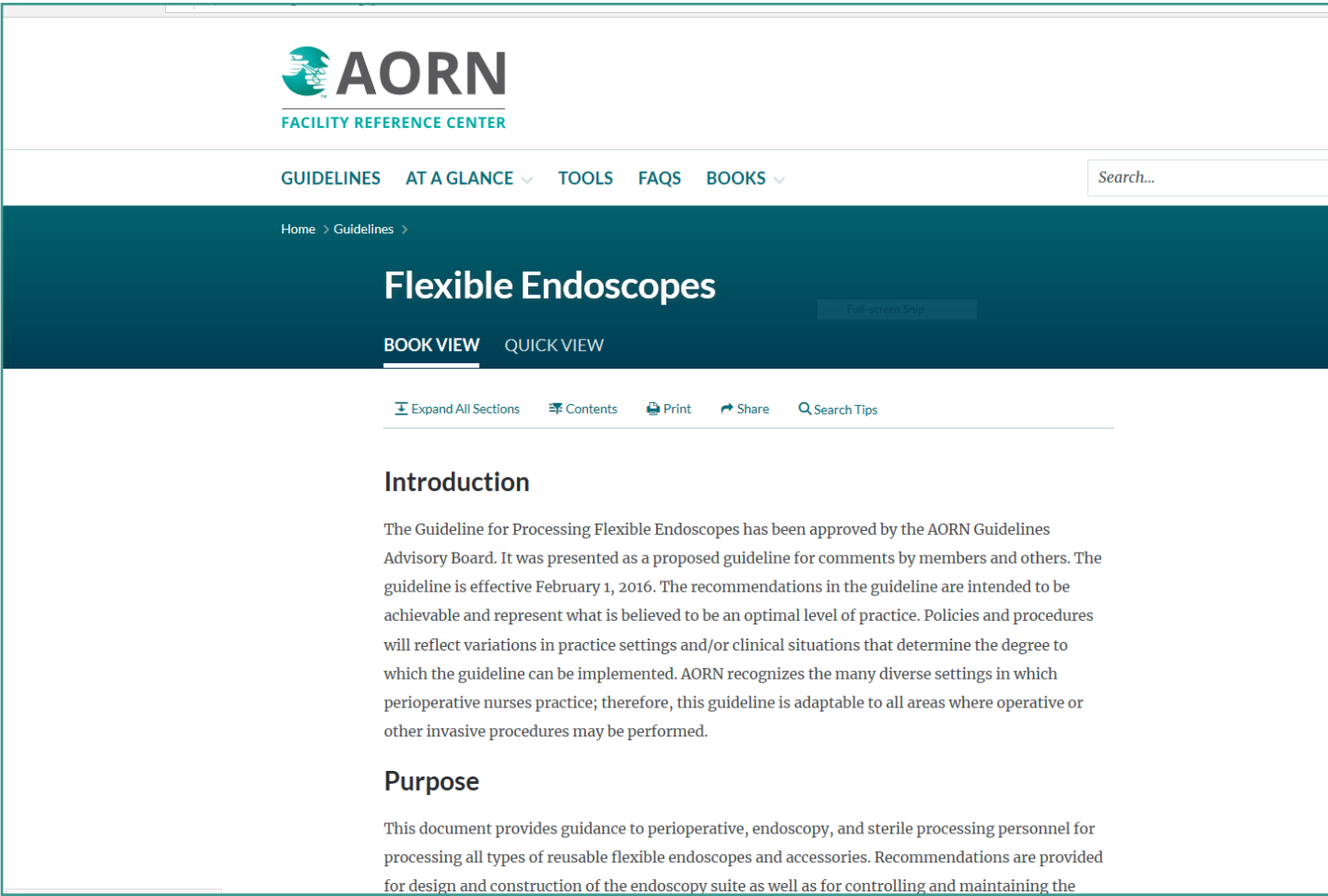


Lukejohn W. Day, MD,¹ V. Raman Muthusamy, MD, MAS,² James Collins, BS, RN, CNOR,³
Vladimir M. Kushnir, MD,⁴ Mandeep S. Sawhney, MD, MS,⁵ Nirav C. Thosani, MD,⁶ Sachin Wani, MD⁷

Microsoft Teams

January 2021

AORN – Guideline for Processing Flexible Endoscopes

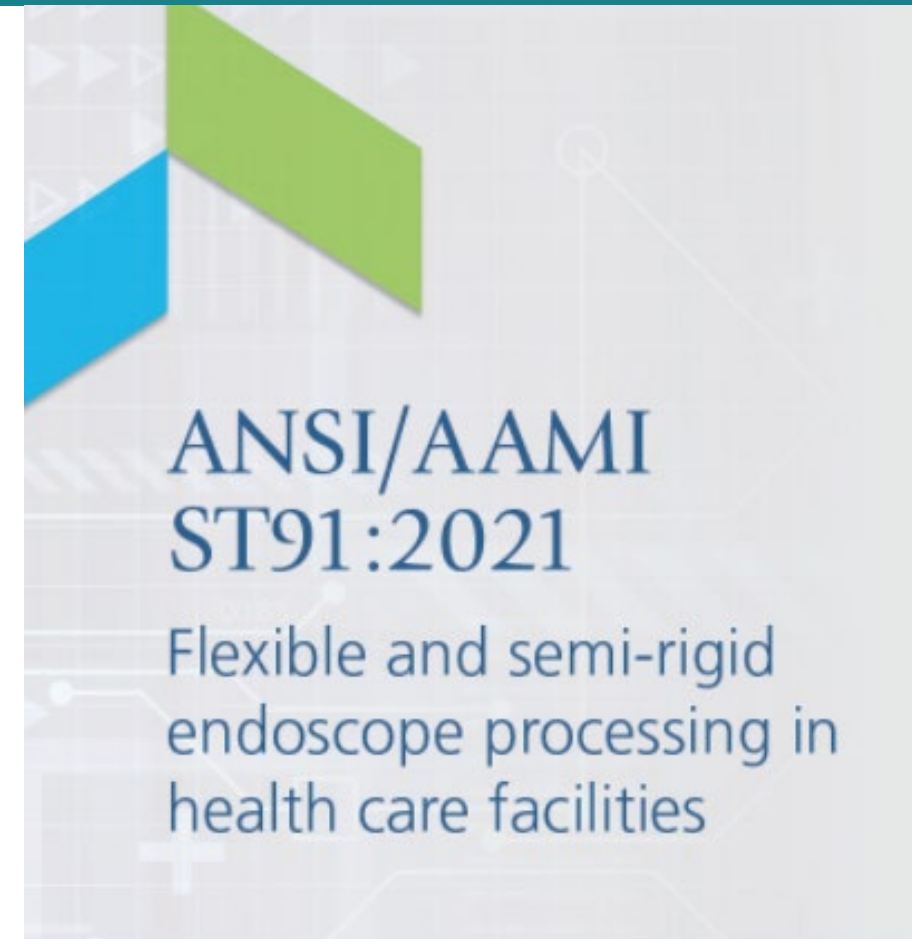


The screenshot displays the AORN Facility Reference Center website. The header features the AORN logo and navigation links: GUIDELINES, AT A GLANCE, TOOLS, FAQs, and BOOKS. A search bar is located on the right. The breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Guidelines >'. The main title 'Flexible Endoscopes' is prominently displayed, with a 'Full-screen Snap' button to its right. Below the title are two tabs: 'BOOK VIEW' (selected) and 'QUICK VIEW'. A secondary navigation bar includes links for 'Expand All Sections', 'Contents', 'Print', 'Share', and 'Search Tips'. The 'Introduction' section begins with the text: 'The Guideline for Processing Flexible Endoscopes has been approved by the AORN Guidelines Advisory Board. It was presented as a proposed guideline for comments by members and others. The guideline is effective February 1, 2016. The recommendations in the guideline are intended to be achievable and represent what is believed to be an optimal level of practice. Policies and procedures will reflect variations in practice settings and/or clinical situations that determine the degree to which the guideline can be implemented. AORN recognizes the many diverse settings in which perioperative nurses practice; therefore, this guideline is adaptable to all areas where operative or other invasive procedures may be performed.' The 'Purpose' section starts with: 'This document provides guidance to perioperative, endoscopy, and sterile processing personnel for processing all types of reusable flexible endoscopes and accessories. Recommendations are provided for design and construction of the endoscopy suite as well as for controlling and maintaining the

2022

ANSI/AAMI ST91: 2021 – Released 3/3/22

- Contains best practices for endoscope reprocessing in ANY setting
- Excludes TEE/ultrasound probes
- Coincidental work - **TIR 99:** processing of US probes & dilators



Focused changes
to ST91 –

next presentation

The logo for ANSI/AAMI ST91:2021 features a stylized graphic on the left consisting of two overlapping parallelograms, one blue and one green. The background is light gray with a faint grid and geometric patterns. The text is in a dark blue serif font.

ANSI/AAMI ST91:2021

Flexible and semi-rigid
endoscope processing in
health care facilities

Organization	SGNA - Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates	AORN - Association of periOperative Registered Nurses	AAMI - Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation	ASGE - American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
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Replaces previous publication year	2018	2019	2015	2016

Institutional policies

ASGE

- “Endoscopy unit has a written environmental disinfection and endoscope reprocessing policy and staff are oriented to it.”

AAMI

- “The health care facility should establish a multidisciplinary , comprehensive, written quality assurance and safety program for all aspects of endoscope processing.”

AORN

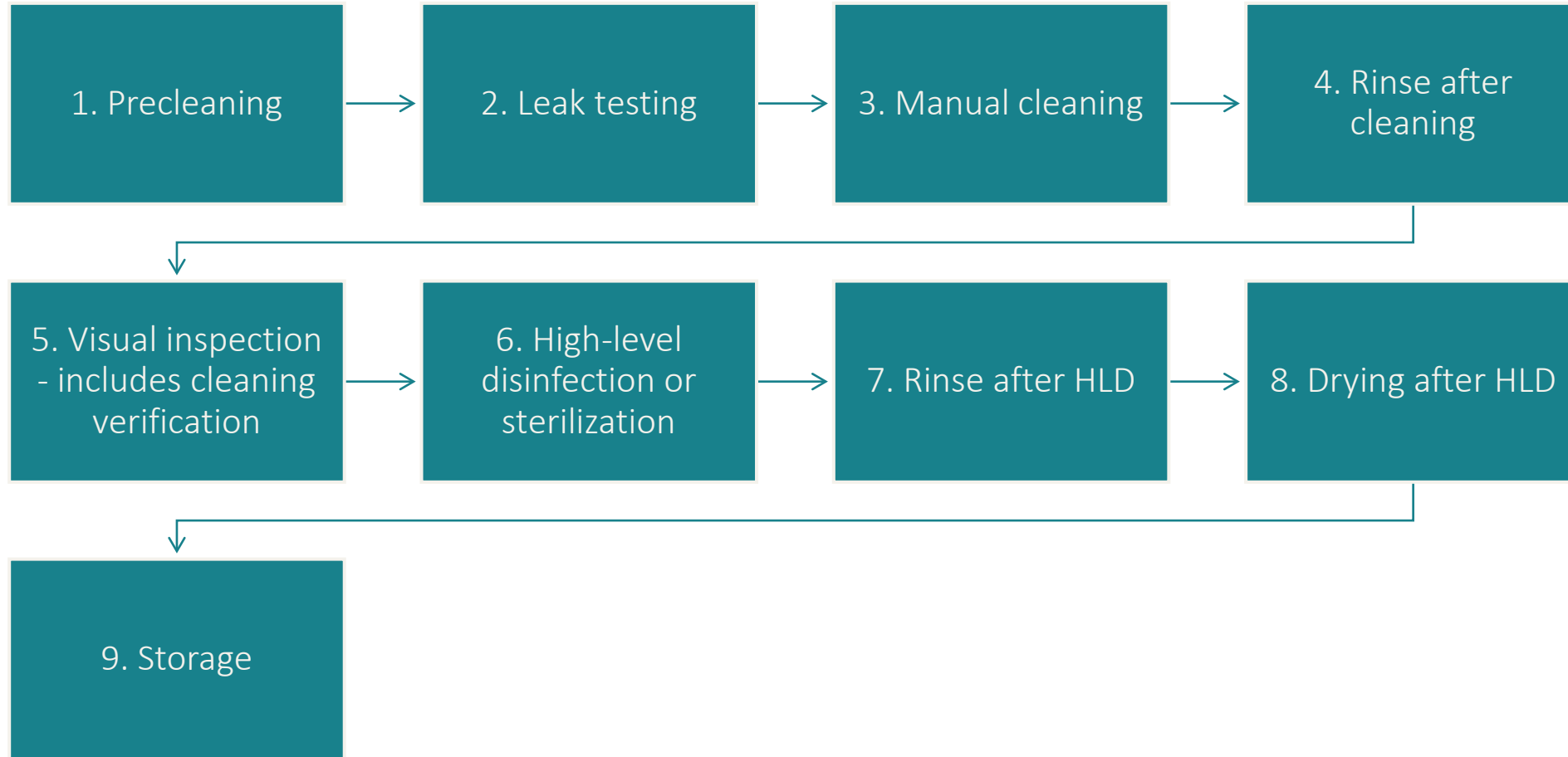
- “The healthcare organization must develop policies and procedures for processing flexible endoscopes, review them periodically, revise them as necessary, and make them readily available in the practice setting in which they are used.”

SGNA

- “Best practices recommend...develop policies and procedures that focus on endoscope reprocessing.”

Flexible Endoscope Reprocessing Steps

(adapted from Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates)



REPROCESSING STEP: Point of use Treatment / Precleaning / Handoff

- Follow IFU
- Keep scopes moist for transport.
- Processing personnel need to know how long the endoscope has been awaiting processing
 - To establish priority order.
 - To determine whether routine processing within the manufacturer's recommended time to cleaning is achievable.
 - If not, requires implementing the manufacturer's procedures for delayed processing.
- Communicate procedure end time/precleaning start time
 - Need a method for conveying that time to reprocessing staff
 - AAMI ST91 (2021): "Handoff communication from point of use to the decontamination area shall include at minimum – patient identifier, date of procedure, and time point of use treatment was completed."



Soiled Transport



- Containment – commonly solid, leakproof, puncture resistant containers or transport carts
- Prevent cross contamination and damage to device
- Appropriate size transport container
- Labeling as contaminated (biohazard), NOT patient ready
- In U.S., needs to meet OSHA hazardous transport guidelines
- For offsite transport in U.S., needs to meet D.O.T., state, local regulations.

Delayed Reprocessing (Olympus)

- 1 hour hold time between precleaning & manual cleaning, and between manual cleaning & high-level disinfection
- IFU: Soak **up to 1 hour** for surgical scopes & **up to 10 hours** for GI scopes
- Customer statement 2018 - <https://medical.olympusamerica.com/sites/default/files/us/files/pdf/Performing-a-Presoak-When-Endoscope-Reprocessing-is-Delayed.pdf>
- Reprocessing Manuals: “Presoak for Excessive Bleeding and/or Delayed Reprocessing”



REPROCESSING STEP: Leak testing

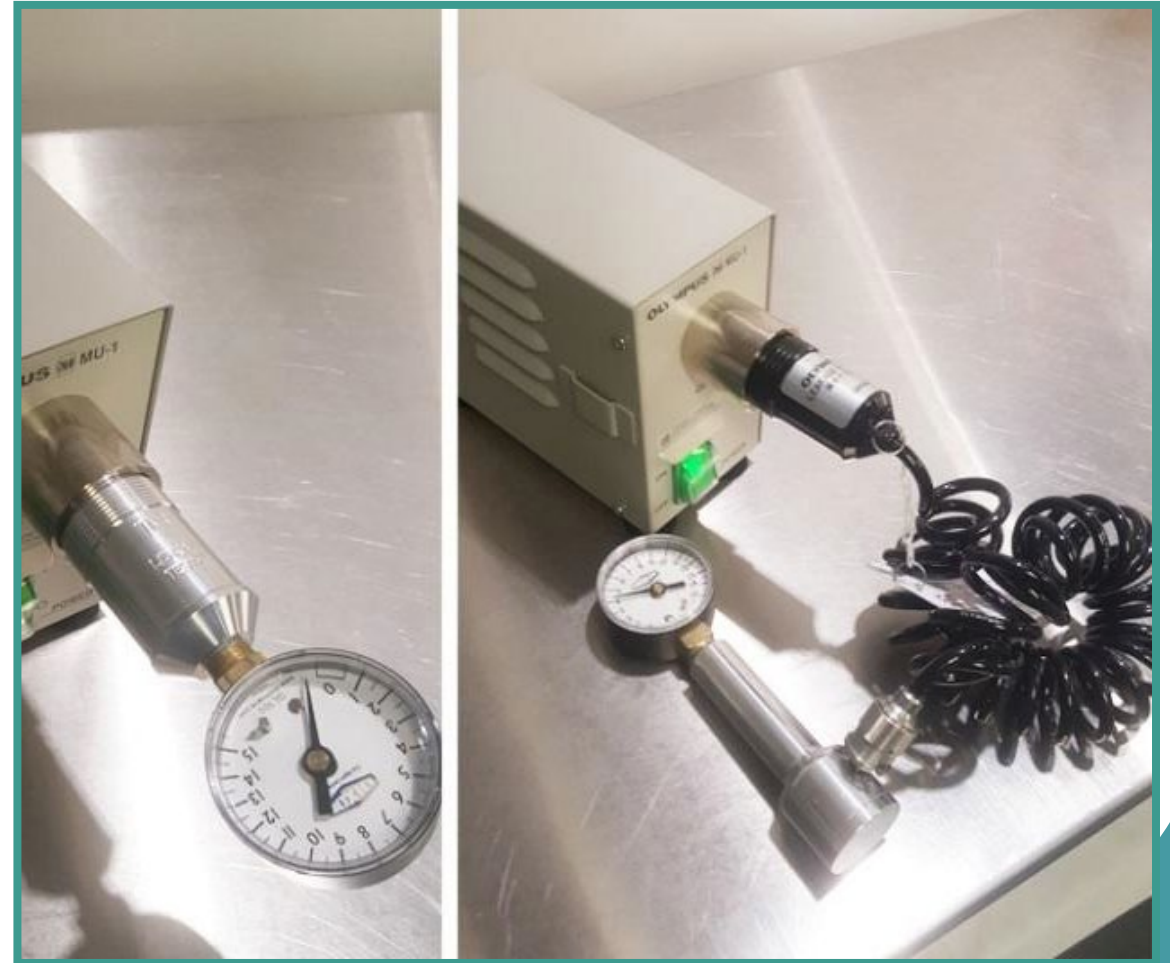
Common Errors

- Not performed every cycle
- Moisture in connector or water-tight cap
- Soapy or reused water
- Too small sink (minimum 16x16)
- Entire scope not immersed
- Not flushing with syringe of water
- Scope not pressurized before immersion
- Angulation controls and switches not manipulated
- Performed too quickly (30 seconds at least)

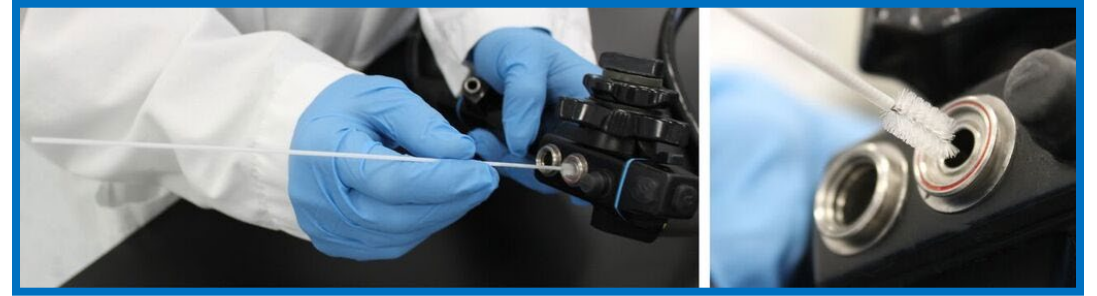


REPROCESSING STEP: Leak testing – QC for leak testers

- Faulty leak testers are **both a device and an infection risk**.
- Incorrect pressure output **handicaps complete discovery of leaks** – a common repair issue.
- (Olympus IFU wording) “Depress the pin located inside the connector cap of the leakage tester and confirm that air is emitted from the connector cap with a whoosh sound.”
- Part of a facility’s quality management program to verify their equipment.
- [AAMI ST91 \(2021\)](#): “Automated leak testers should be placed on a calibration schedule to verify the leak tester is producing the correct pressure. Manual handheld leak testers and leak tester tubing should be inspected for damage, leakage, and pressure output”.



REPROCESSING STEP: Manual cleaning – BRUSHING



- **AAMI ST91 (2021):** “Use brushes of the length, width, and material specified by the endoscope manufacturer’s written IFU”.
- **SGNA:** “Use a brush size compatible with each channel, bristles should contact all surfaces.”
- **AORN:** “compatible brush in accordance with the manufacturer’s IFU”.
- **Multisociety Guideline:** “Use brushes appropriate for the size of the endoscope channel, parts, connectors, and orifices (e.g., bristles should contact all surfaces) for cleaning.”

What About Automated Cleaning in an AER?

Some have FDA cleared cleaning claims.

○ AAMI ST91 (2021):

- If considering replacing full manual cleaning with automated cleaning, “convene a multi-disciplinary team to conduct a risk assessment”.
- When it comes to duodenoscopes, the FDA recommendations are reinforced - that AER cleaning cycles only be a supplement to thorough manual cleaning.

○ SGNA:

- “...users are strongly encouraged to perform both (manual cleaning and brushing) even when automated washing of endoscope channels is used. The redundancy achieved by adding an automated washing step following manual cleaning can provide an extra level of safety.”

REPROCESSING STEP: Inspection

Standards & Guidelines -

- AAMI
- AORN
- SGNA
- Multisociety Guideline

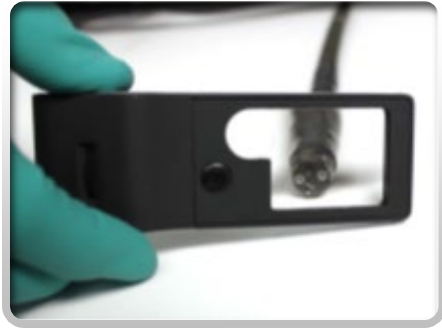
All support the practice of using lighted magnification for inspection.



Cleaning verification

- Research and investigations have highlighted the **limitations of manual cleaning**.
- Soil/biofilm that remains after cleaning may interfere with the disinfection or sterilization process.
- Cleaning verification as a **part of focused inspection**.
- Cleaning verification tests **serve as a marker** to show that the steps for processing followed resulted in an adequately cleaned endoscope.

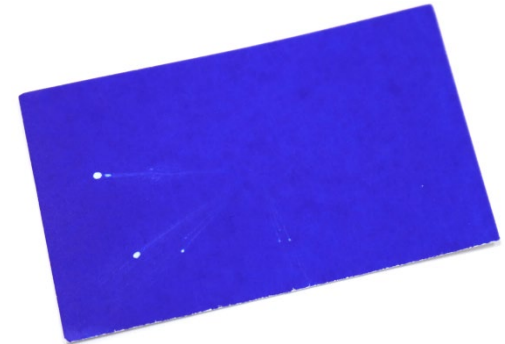
	CLEANING VERIFICATION
AAMI	"High-risk endoscopes ...shall be evaluated with cleaning verification tests after each use".
SGNA	"Facilities should consider a method of manual cleaning verification."
AORN	"Manual cleaning of flexible endoscopes should be verified using cleaning verification tests when new endoscopes are purchased and at established intervals".



Enhanced visual inspection and cleaning verification –
best practice and quality control that helps you evaluate
what the naked eye cannot

Reprocessing step - Drying

- Scopes must be completely dry before going into storage or used clinically.
- Follow manual or AER cycle with **instrument quality** air drying.
 - (AER cycles are an air purge only)
- How do you know its dry? - Inspect with borescope or use a drying test
- **AORN**: “Drying should be completed outside of the AER, even when the AER has an air purge or extended dry time feature.”
- **SGNA**: “Drying the endoscope after every reprocessing cycle, both between patient procedures and before storage, is crucial.”
- **AAMI ST91 (2021)**: Channeled endoscopes dried for a minimum of 10-minutes with pressure-regulated forced instrument air or a minimum of HEPA-filtered air.
- **Multisociety Guideline**: “Endoscopes should be completely dried after reprocessing and before use”.



Reprocessing Step - Storage

- AORN and AAMI ST91 (2021): Drying cabinet preferred. If not, then cabinet with HEPA filtered air.
- Can not rely on hanging to dry!
- Cabinet maintenance
 - Check with manufacturer
 - Have it proceduralized



Labelling for identification post processing

- **AORN:** “Use a distinct visual cue to identify flexible endoscopes that are ready for use”
- **SGNA:** Have a system in place to for identify scopes that are clean and ready to use
- **AAMI ST91 (2021):** “Before it is placed in the storage cabinet, a label or tag should be attached to the processed endoscope that includes:
 - a) the processing date
 - b) the name(s) of the person(s) who performed the processing, optionally as specified by facility policy; an
 - c) expiration date, based on facility’s established risk assessment, if applicable.”



Current recommendations for length of storage “hang time”

- AORN, Multisociety Guideline, and AAMI ST91 (2021): Perform a **risk assessment** with a multi-disciplinary team to establish a policy for maximum storage time that processed flexible endoscopes are considered safe to use without reprocessing.
- SGNA: “SGNA supports a **7-day storage** interval...”



FDA Safety Communications

Supplemental Measures to Enhance Duodenoscope Reprocessing: FDA Safety Communication - August 4, 2015 - <http://wayback.archive-it.org/7993/20170722150658/https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm454766.htm>

Provides a list of supplemental duodenoscope reprocessing measures that facilities can use in addition to current IFUs for additional risk mitigation.

- Microbiological Culturing
- Ethylene Oxide Sterilization
- Use of a Liquid Chemical Sterilant Processing System
- ~~Repeat High Level Disinfection~~

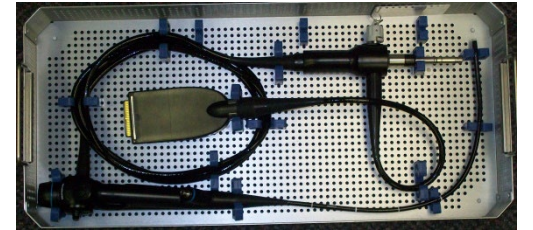
Microbial Surveillance

- Options include:
 - Traditional culturing
 - Gram negative test kits
- **Not ATP or cleaning verification tests**
- **AAMI ST91 (2021):** “Although the use of (microbial surveillance) is voluntary...data can be used as part of an overall quality control program”. Note the FDA mandated surveillance testing that showed 5.4% of cultured scopes were positive for organisms of concern.
- **AORN:** “Convene an interdisciplinary team...to evaluate the need to implement...”
- **SGNA:** “Surveillance cultures remain the most reliable indicator of residual contamination on reprocessed endoscopes.”



Sterilization of endoscopes

- **Spaulding:** Standard of care for critical and semi-critical devices
 - Semi-critical: If sterilization is not possible, then HLD
- More modalities compatible with surgical flexible endoscopes
- Sterilization is dependent on adequate **cleaning, drying** and device preparation

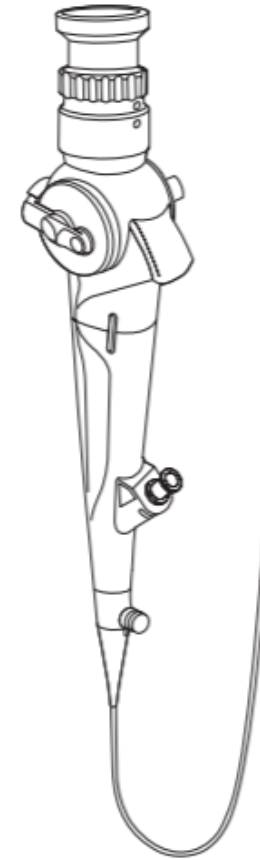


Sterilization

- Surgical scopes - many compatible with vaporized hydrogen peroxide systems
- STERRAD in Olympus IFU
- V-Pro not in IFU - found in customer letters
- ETO compatible with all Olympus scopes
- Sterilization is dependent on adequate **cleaning, drying** and device preparation
- Store flat in wrap according to hospital policy

Revised labelling for Olympus URF-P6, URF-P6R, V, V2, V2R

- Ureteroscope recall
- Olympus new manuals and letter dated 1/17/18
 - Scope tips can break off in patient
 - Also changed reprocessing instructions
 - Requires sterilization!
 - Removed HLD info
 - Inspection required prior to use



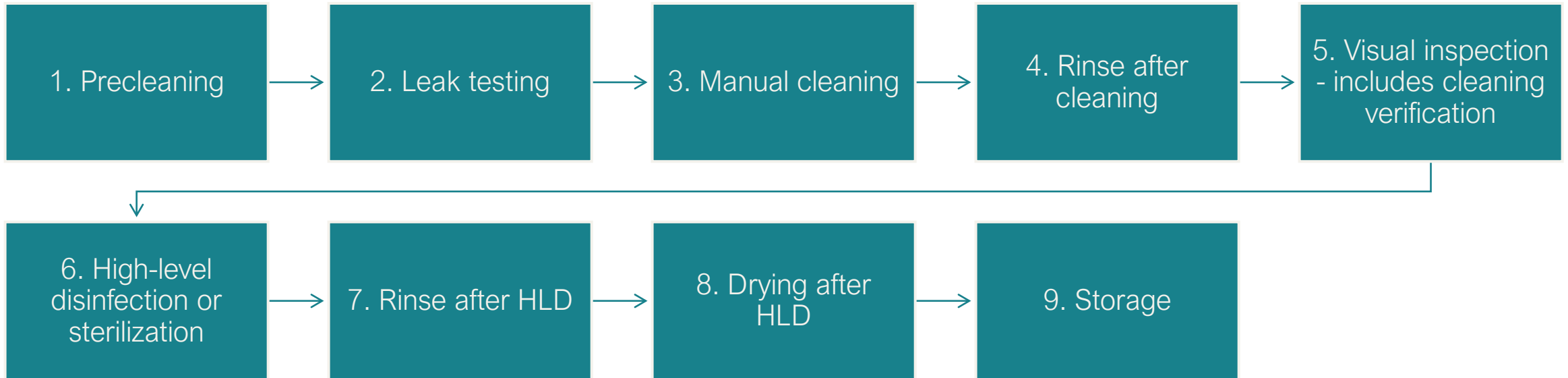
Develop an action plan for sterilization

- Inventory scopes – what models do you have
- Look at compatibility with sterilization methods
- Move all scopes that can be easily sterilized to sterilization!
 - Surgical flexible scopes: bronchoscopes, ureteroscopes, cysto, hystero, ENT, etc.
- Look at remaining scope inventory (GI scopes)
 - Prioritize by risk (e.g. duodenoscopes)
 - Based on FDA recommendations, do something
 - Sterilize, culture, liquid chemical sterilization, double HLD
- May need to adjust inventory levels of scopes

Trends and technology

- Semi- and fully-disposable endoscopes.
- Increasing number of endoscope drying modalities.
- R&D: low temperature sterilization and automated cleaning.
- Increased emphasis on bronchoscopes and other “high-risk endoscopes” - cystoscopes, duodenoscopes, endobronchial ultrasound endoscopes, linear ultrasound endoscopes, ureteroscopes.
- Aerosol and splash risks in endoscopic procedures and endoscope processing.

ENSURE BEST PRACTICE FOR ALL STEPS



Conclusion

SEEK PROVEN INFORMATION FOR BEST PRACTICE

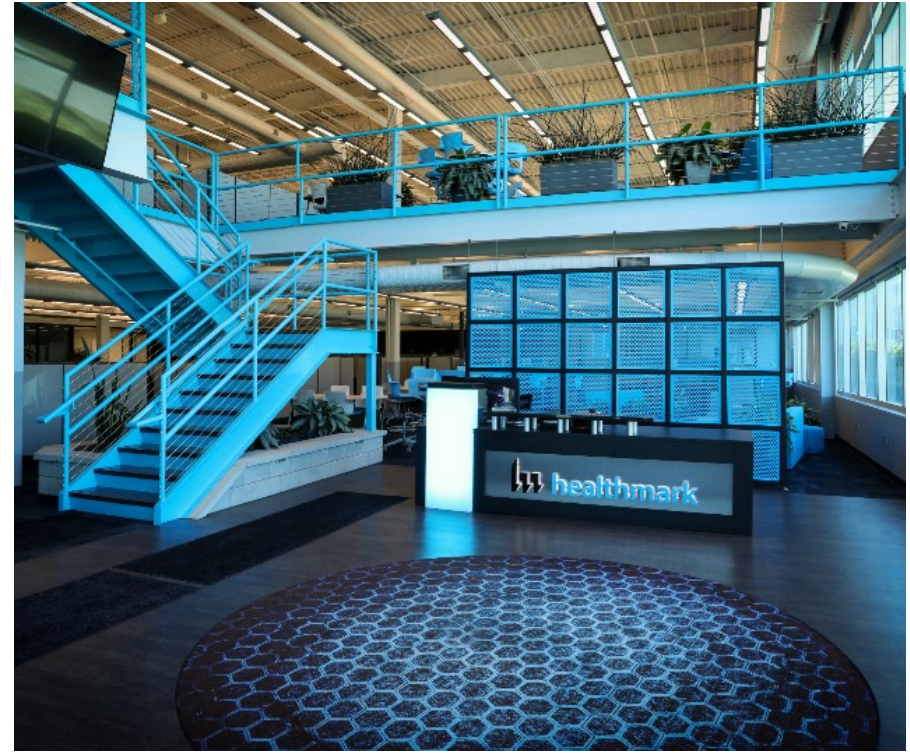
- Standards & guidelines organizations
 - Professional Societies
 - Peer-reviewed literature & research
- 
- A teal-colored decorative curve is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, starting from the bottom edge and curving upwards and to the left.

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All webinars are from 1-2 PM EST

June – See you in San Antonio for APIC!

July 16th – LTC: NHSN Reporting

August 20th – Member Presentations

October 10th – APIC-GL Fall Conference!

November 19th - TBD

Please note this schedule is subject to change. All changes and additional event details will be communicated via email, once confirmed.

Please direct questions to **Kelsey Ostergren** – kostergren@mha.org,
Chau Nguyen - chau.nguyen@corewellhealth.org, or **Denise Parr** – parrd1@michigan.gov

Session Recordings NOW AVAILABLE!

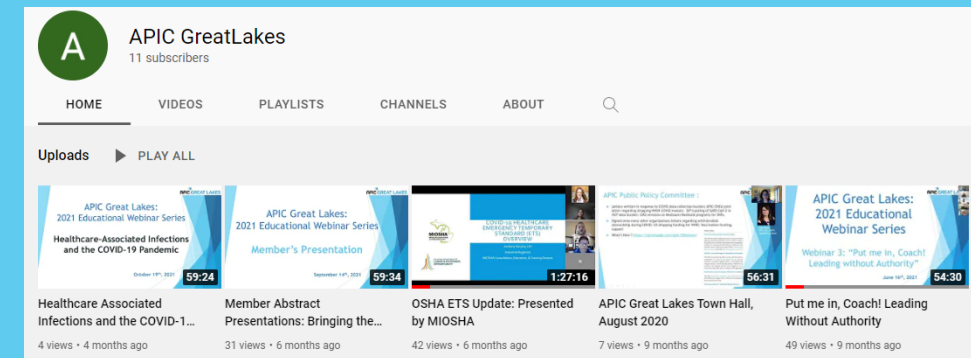
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[Link](#) to job board

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