

Standard Operating Procedure

Delayed After Hours Reprocessing of Flexible Endoscopes

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OBJECTIVES

To identify options to manage the risk associated with incidences of delayed reprocessing of flexible endoscopes.

PRINCIPLES

- Bedside cleaning should be performed immediately after the procedure
- Manual cleaning should be initiated within one hour of bedside cleaning
- Medical device reprocessing departments are required to have a system in place to avoid after hours delayed reprocessing of flexible endoscopes.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary) working within Medical Device Reprocessing and Satellite Endoscopy Reprocessing Departments.

ELEMENTS

1. Recommendation to avoid delayed reprocessing of flexible endoscopes
 - 1.1 When flexible endoscopy procedures occurs outside of normal MDR/OR business hours one of the following systems shall be in place.
 - Use an on call roster of certified medical device reprocessing technicians

Or

 - Use an automated endoscope reprocessor with a validated cleaning cycle. An employee (e.g. nurse, service worker) must be trained and competency assessed prior to implementation and on an ongoing basis.

Note: The flexible endoscope will then undergo complete reprocessing as per the manufacturer's instructions by a certified medical device reprocessing technician prior to storage or patient use.

Or

 - Use disposable flexible endoscopes

Or

- Train employees e.g. service workers, nursing) to manually clean flexible endoscopes using the site's standard operating procedures. The employee must be trained and competency assessed prior to implementation and on an ongoing basis.

Note: The flexible endoscope will then undergo complete reprocessing as per the manufacturer's instructions by a certified medical device reprocessing technician prior to storage or patient use.

1.2 If above system in place fails (e.g. the on-call person is unable to attend), a site can proceed with the below secondary delayed reprocessing recommendation.

- Pre-clean the flexible endoscope at bedside. Use a product that will maintain a moist environment on and in the flexible endoscope for the duration of time that it will sit un-processed (e.g. 72 hour foam) following the products manufacturer's instructions for use. Prior to use or storage the flexible endoscope must be reprocessed following the site's procedures by a certified medical device reprocessing technician. Cleaning verification is recommended to ensure cleanliness of the flexible endoscope (e.g. protein test, hemoglobin test, ATP test), after manual cleaning and prior to high level disinfection.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services documents
 - *Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing*, Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA-Z314-18)
 - *Delayed Reprocessing of Olympus Flexible Endoscopes Statement (2012)*
 - *Pentax Instructions For Use (Reprocessing)*

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
March 2020	Initial approval
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