

Decontamination Procedure for high level disinfection of Semi-critical Ultrasound Probes (Semi-invasive and Non-invasive): using a manual (chlorine dioxide) multi-wipe system.

1. PURPOSE

These operating instructions describe the method for decontamination of ultrasound probes using a manual (**chlorine dioxide**) multi-wipe system. This is a manual process to achieve high level disinfection with a series of impregnated wipes that separately clean, disinfect and then rinse the probes.

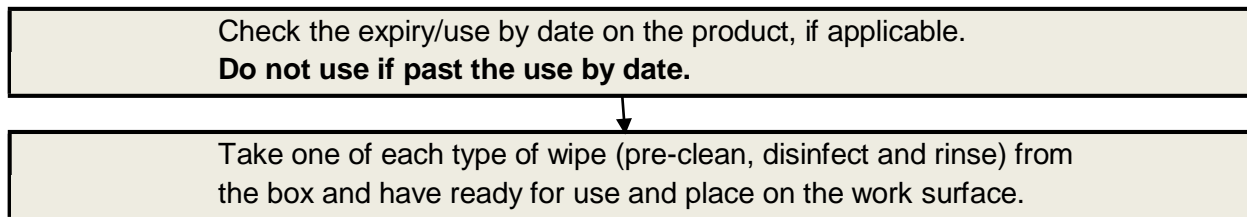
2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The User (unit manager) has overall responsibility for the ultrasound probe decontamination procedures within the department.
The Operator (person undertaking decontamination of ultrasound probes) performs this procedure.

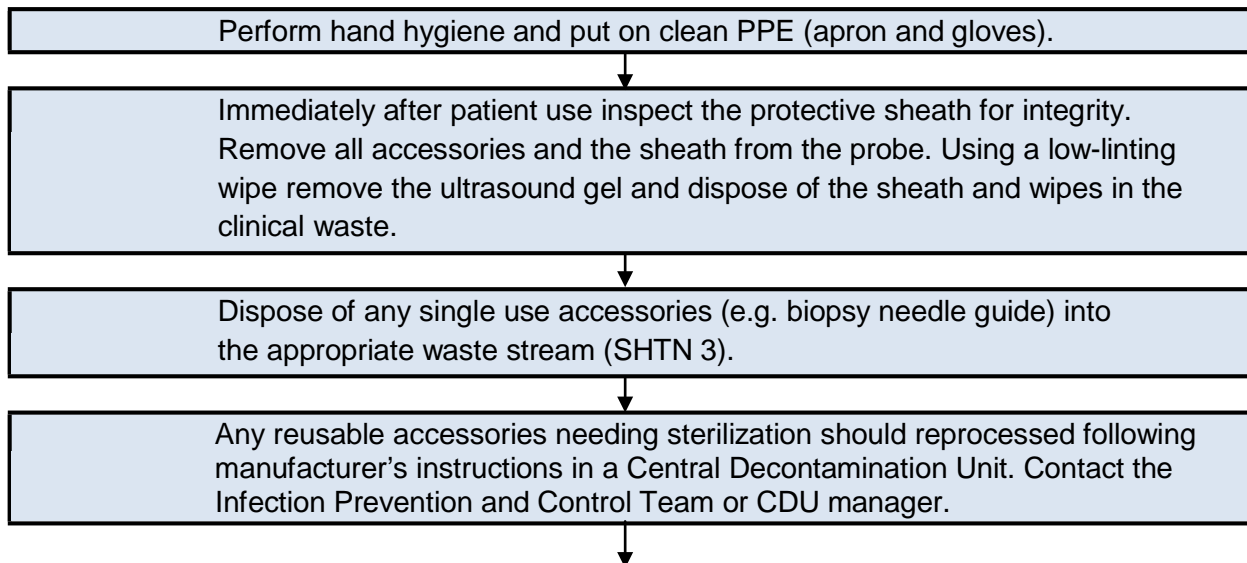
3. PROCEDURE

Decontamination procedures should be performed in a designated room/area preferably separate from the clinical area. However, HAI risk-assessed procedures in the patient area are currently an acceptable solution where the ultrasound probe cannot be disconnected or there is no designated room/area separate from the clinical area (see [NHSScotland guidance document for further information](#)). **These are manual decontamination procedures and to be fully effective, manufacturer’s instructions must be strictly adhered to.**

3.1 PREPARATION



3.2 PRE-CLEANING OF PROBES – essential requirement



Decontamination Procedure for high level disinfection of Semi-critical Ultrasound Probes (Semi-invasive and Non-invasive): using a manual (chlorine dioxide) multi-wipe system.

*Disconnect the probe from the console if recommended by the manufacturer and transport to the designated decontamination area. (See [Transport and Storage SOP](#)).

(*If decontamination requires to be in the patient area, ensure that there is clear segregation between dirty and clean processes.)

Remove the pre-clean wipe from the sachet and unfold into palm of the hand. Retain the sachet for the bar code to enter into the audit trail book provided by the wipe manufacturer.

Wipe the full length of the probe and cable to remove all visible soiling. More than one wipe may be required if heavily soiled.

Discard wipe and PPE to clinical waste, perform hand hygiene and put on clean PPE.

3.3 INSPECTION

After pre-cleaning the probes are examined by the operator for cleanliness, damage and functionality. Ensure there are no signs of discolouration or cracks, giving particular attention to the probe tip.

Report any non-compliance to the User. When appropriate, label and segregate the probe to prevent use.

3.4 DISINFECTION

Remove the disinfectant wipe from the sachet and unfold into palm of the hand. Retain the sachet for the bar code to enter into the audit trail book.

Activate the wipe as indicated in the manufacturer's instructions ensuring the wipe is completely covered in foam.

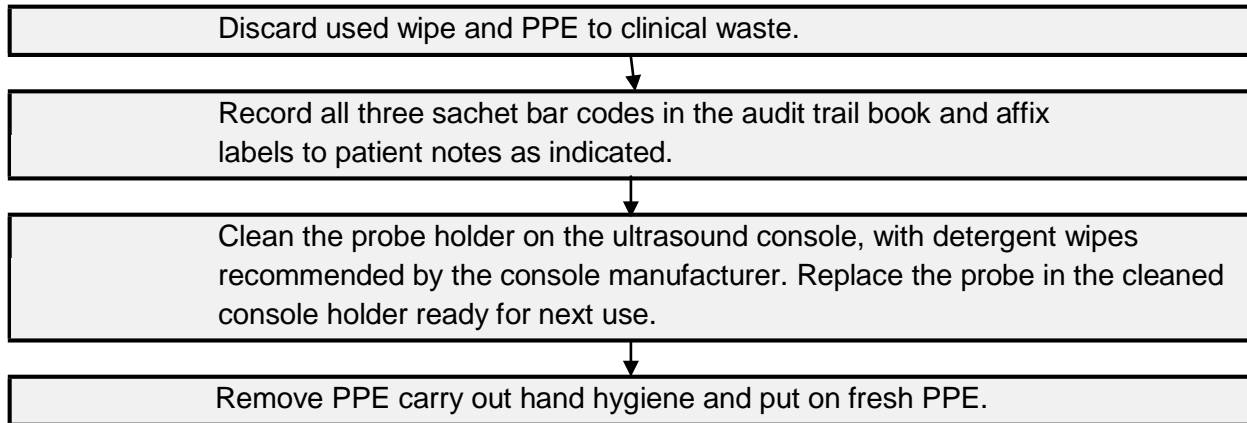
Carefully wipe the entire surface of the probe and cable ensuring contact with the disinfectant for the time recommended in the manufacturer's instructions.

3.5 RINSE

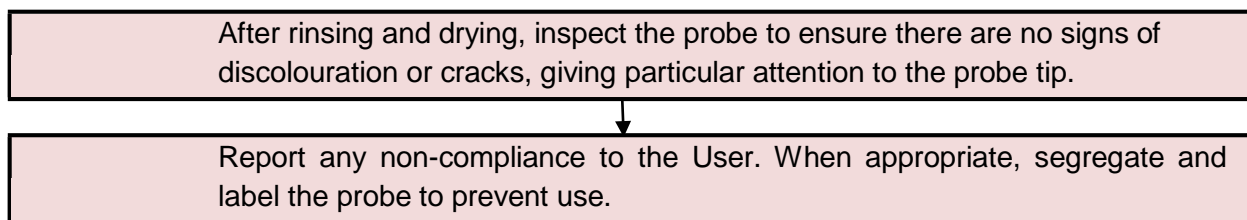
After the indicated contact time with disinfectant, remove the rinse wipe from the sachet and unfold in palm of hand. Retain the sachet for identification purposes e.g. enter the bar code into the audit trail book.

Wipe the full length of probe and cable thoroughly to remove excess disinfectant.

Decontamination Procedure for high level disinfection of Semi-critical Ultrasound Probes (Semi-invasive and Non-invasive): using a manual (chlorine dioxide) multi-wipe system.



3.6 INSPECTION – post disinfection



4. PRODUCT RELEASE

- 4.1** After completion of the decontamination process, review the process to ensure acceptance criteria are being met:
- Visual inspection ‘pass’;
 - Traceability records complete.
- 4.2** The product is released after meeting the acceptance criteria and the completion of the traceability record. Traceability labels are attached to the patient records and system log books.
- 4.3** If a non-conformance is found during inspection of the ultrasound probe, the management is informed in order to decide the appropriate corrective actions.

5. VALIDATION, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE

This is monitored by the User (e.g. unit manager)

5.1 INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND VALIDATION

Not applicable.

5.2 ANNUAL AND PERIODIC TESTING

Not applicable

5.3 MAINTENANCE AND ROUTINE CLEANING

Not applicable

Decontamination Procedure for high level disinfection of Semi-critical Ultrasound Probes (Semi-invasive and Non-invasive): using a manual (chlorine dioxide) multi-wipe system.

5.4 FAULTS-probe

The Operator records the fault, then notifies the User.

The User investigates the fault. If unresolved, contact the local estates department (if it does not conflict with the service contract) and the manufacturer/supplier for repair.

When complete, the User checks the replacement is satisfactory. The Operator retains a record of the replacement in the Decontamination Manual.

6. RECORDS

System log book
Traceability records