



## HSE Decontamination Advisory Notice

**To:** All Decontamination Leads; Infection Prevention Control Nurse Managers; Endoscope Decontamination Unit Managers; Central Decontamination Unit Managers; Health and Safety Managers, Occupational Health Managers and Quality, Risk and Patient Safety Managers.

**From:** Caroline Conneely National Decontamination Advisor, HSE, National Quality Improvement Team, Dr Steeven's Hospital.

**Re:** Decontamination of Invasive Medical Devices.

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Standard Precautions assume that every person is potentially infected or colonized with a pathogen that could be transmitted in the healthcare setting.

Infection control procedures including administrative rules, engineering controls, environmental hygiene, correct work practices, and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) are all necessary to prevent infections from spreading during healthcare delivery.

- ◆ Healthcare workers involved in the decontamination of invasive medical devices (surgical instruments and endoscopes), should be trained on the correct use, proper donning (putting on) doffing (taking off), and disposal of PPE.
- ◆ Minimal handling of contaminated invasive medical devices should always be observed.
- ◆ Manual washing is used only when required by manufacturers' instructions.
- ◆ For invasive medical devices which must be manually pre-cleaned before disinfection (e.g. endoscopes) manual cleaning procedures should be performed below the detergent fluid/ water line, to ensure that aerosols are not created.
- ◆ Local practices and procedures should be reviewed and updated where necessary to ensure that they are in line with the following HSE documents :

HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for the Operational Management of Endoscope Decontamination Facilities QPSD-D-082-1.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/nationalsafetyprogrammes/decontamination/health-service-executive-standards-and-recommended-practices-for-operational-management-of-endoscope-decontamination-facilities-2019.pdf>

HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Central Decontamination Units QPSD-D-003-2.1 V2.1(2012). <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/nationalsafetyprogrammes/decontamination/standards%20for%20cdu's.pdf>

### NOTE

1. There is no requirement to quarantine invasive medical devices that have been used on patients who are suspected or confirmed to have Covid-19, unless they have or are suspected of having CJD or other TSE's. If there is a risk of CJD or TSE please review the HPSC Protocol for Reporting and Management of cases of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD) and other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs).  
<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/other/cjd/guidance/Reporting%20and%20Management%20CJD%20TSEs%202019.pdf>



2. There is no requirement to process invasive medical devices, used on patients who are suspected or confirmed to have Covid-19, in a separate washer disinfectant cycle.
3. There is no requirement to run an additional empty washer disinfectant cycle after the washer disinfectant has processed invasive medical devices which have been used on patients who are suspected or confirmed to have Covid-19.

In the event that you require additional information please contact your local Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Manager.