







Overview of Recommended Transport & Handling Guidelines

Many professional organisations, hospitals and independent endoscopy centers have developed guidelines recommending how to transport and handle these fragile, high-priced devices.

Among the professional organisations that have issued guidelines or recommended practices are the:

NHS - Decontamination Standards for Flexible Endoscopy (UK)¹

The NHS recommends that:

- "Endoscopes are transported to the decontamination area in a covered receptacle that is of an appropriate size so as to avoid contaminating the environment"
- "Endoscopes are transferred to the AER in an appropriately sized receptacle so as to avoid contamination of the environment."
- "When transporting endoscopes to and from areas outside the endoscopy unit, endoscopes are transferred in a receptacle with a hard lid that completely encloses the endoscope."

Ministry of Health - Good practices for disinfection of medical devices - Guidelines for the use of washer-disinfectors for endoscopes (Nov. 2003)-section 2.3 Transport (France)²

The French Ministry of Health recommends that:

- "Once the pre-treatment has been done in the examination room, the endoscope is transfered to the decontamination room as soon as possible and in conditions that allow for the protection of staff and the environment."
- "To avoid remaining residues from drying, which would definitely compromise the efficiency of the next steps, several ways to transport the endoscope should be considered:
 - dry, in a tray covered by a sheet or in any other closed receptacle, with or without preliminary soaking in a detergent
 - in a closed receptacle containing a detergent solution"

Robert Koch Institute (Germany)³

The RKI recommends that:

- "The used endoscope is transported to the preparation room in a closed container (e.g. a tank with a lid), in order to avoid contamination of the surrounding area (category I B)"
- "For endoscopic examinations outside the endoscopy department (e.g. in the intensive care ward), the endoscopes should be transported in suitable closed containers, protected from contamination (category I B)."
- "Storage of endoscopes or transportation of endoscopes to external examinations in the endoscope case is not permitted. The endoscope case may be used only for sending a defective device to the manufacturer for repair (category I B)."

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Health Service Executive (HSE) – Code of Practice for Decontamination of Reusable Invasive Medical Devices – Part 4 – Recommended practices for endoscopy units (Ireland)⁴

The HSE recommends that:

- "Contaminated endoscopes and accessories should be placed in re-usable, solid walled, leak proof containers/trolley and transported to the decontamination area as soon as possible after use."
- "Transport containers should protect both the product during transit and the handler from inadvertent contamination."
- "There should be an adequate number of transport containers and trolleys in the endoscope reprocessing units."



- 1. NHS Decontamination standards for flexible endoscopy
- Ministère de la santé Bonnes pratiques de désinfection des dispositifs médicaux Guide pour l'utilisation des laveurs-désinfecteurs d'endoscopes - Nov. 2003:12
- 3. Bundesgesundheitsbl Gesundheitsforsch Gesundheitsschutz 2002 · 45:395-411 **Springer-Verlag 2002
- Health Service Executive (HSE) Code of Practice for Decontamination of Reusable Invasive Medical Devices - Part 4 - Recommended practices for endoscopy units, version 1 - 2007



For technical information, refer to leaflet Step 1.