

# Addressing Challenges of Endoscope Reprocessing

ECRI 2019 Top 10 Health Technology Hazards (#5)

Once again, Endoscope Reprocessing has landed on the ECRI Institute's **Top 10 Health Technology Hazards** list. This marks the eleventh year of prominent recognition of the risks and dangers related to these very important and commonly used medical devices. If you are interested in strengthening your facility's endoscope reprocessing procedure, consider two critical aspects of reprocessing identified by ECRI, cleaning and transport.

## Endoscope Cleaning

From the 2019 ECRI report, on the importance of proper cleaning: *"If biologic debris and other foreign material is not cleaned from the endoscope first, residual soil can harden, making subsequent disinfection ineffective."*<sup>1</sup>

**Endoscopes and accessories should be immediately cleaned after each patient procedure.**

1. Remove gross soil
  - Wipe scope surface with single use wipe, always passing from proximal (handle) end to distal end; this is sometimes referred to as wiping "from clean to dirty"
  - Repeat three times, using a new wipe each time and wiping in a single pass
2. Use a multi-enzymatic solution to flush biopsy channels to remove soil and help prevent drying of organic and inorganic debris in lumens

## Case Medical recommends: CASE Solutions® Endoscopy Bedside Kit

The kit includes:

- 12 packets each containing three PentaWipes® Multi-Enzymatic Wipes for removing gross soil from the outer surface of the endoscope
- 12 250ml bottles of PentaZyme® Multi-Enzymatic Cleaner, a low foam formula used to flush the channels of the endoscope.



Order using Part ID **CSEKIT12**

## Proper Transport and Storage

From the ECRI report on instrument transportation and storage after reprocessing, “Recontamination can also occur when transporting and storing endoscopes. Disinfected and dried endoscopes should be transported in a clean enclosed container...”<sup>1</sup>

### Endoscopes should be transported in a properly labeled rigid container.

- Containers with a used endoscope should be marked with a biohazard label
- Separate accessories from the contaminated endoscope to prevent puncture or damage
- Transport containers should be cleaned and disinfected after each use
- A single endoscope in a container should be coiled in large loops to prevent damage
- Disinfected and dried endoscopes should be transported in a sealed container to help reduce the risk of recontamination



Red Biohazard Indicator Seals do double duty—they identify biohazards for transport and seal the container to ensure it’s not opened before it reaches its destination

Order using Part ID **SCS01BH**

## Case Medical recommends: SteriTite® Sealed Containers for sealed transport



SteriTite® Sealed Containers are made of anodized aluminum and passivated stainless steel for a long useful life. Available in various sizes, select those that best match the endoscopes to be transported. Can be ordered with color-coded custom ID plaques with biohazard symbol.

Speak with a Case Medical representative for help choosing the proper container sizes and configurations.

<sup>1</sup> ECRI Institute. 2019 Top 10 Health Technology Hazards: Executive Brief. Published October 2018. Accessed February 6, 2019.

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