



Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.

## POSITION STATEMENT

### *Water and Irrigation Bottles Used During Endoscopy*

#### Disclaimer

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (SGNA) assumes no responsibility for the practices or recommendations of any member or other practitioner, or for the policies and procedures of any practice setting. Nurses and associates function within the limitations of licensure, state nurse practice act, and/or institutional policy.

#### Definitions

For the purpose of this document, SGNA has adopted the following definitions:

**Water bottle** refers to the water container, cap, and tubing that are used for insufflation of air and lens wash (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2011).

**Irrigation bottle** refers to water container and tubing (and accessories) that are used to flush water through the endoscope.

#### Background

Water and irrigation bottles are used during endoscopy. Limited research exists on the type of water recommended for use in the water bottle during endoscopic procedures. The Multisociety guideline on reprocessing flexible gastrointestinal endoscopes (ASGE, 2011) and the major endoscope manufacturers recommend the use of sterile water during endoscopy (Fujifilm Medical Systems, U.S.A., Inc., 2011; Olympus America Inc., 2011; Pentax Medical Company, 2009).

Waterborne infections in health care have been traced to the tap water supply (Dickey, 2014), as well as the improper reprocessing of water bottles and endoscopic accessories (Beilenhoff et al., 2008; Kovaleva, Peters, van der Mei, & Degner, 2013). Facility water supplies have been found to be reservoirs for waterborne pathogens such as *Legionella* or *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Zhou et al., 2013).

#### Position

SGNA supports the following positions:

- A. Use sterile water in the water and irrigation bottles for all endoscopic procedures (ASGE, 2011; Beilenhoff et al., 2008).
- B. Manually clean and high-level disinfect or sterilize the reusable water and irrigation bottles according to manufacturer's recommendations, at least daily (ASGE, 2011; Beilenhoff et al., 2008; Greenwald, 2011). Thoroughly dry all water bottle surfaces before storage to reduce the potential for bacterial colonization (ASGE, 2011; Greenwald, 2011; SGNA, 2012).

## Reprocessing Water Bottles

SGNA supports further research in the area of water use in endoscopy.

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## Water and Irrigation Bottles

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