Heemstra, Sarah

From: Heemstra, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Heemstra, Sarah
Subject: Infection Prevention Champions Program: Approved Chemicals

Dear Champion,

This next letter will review information regarding approved chemicals and instructions for their use.

Enzymatic Detergents
Cleaning is the first and most important step in removing microbial burden from an endoscope, as remaining debris may prevent effective high-level disinfection and expose patients to possible infection risks. Only cleaning solutions that are specifically formulated and designated for use on medical devices should be used for cleaning endoscopes before high-level disinfection. Enzymatic detergents are recommended for this purpose. The composition of soil found on endoscopes includes proteins, fats, starches, carbohydrates and various chemical salts that exist in body fluids such as blood. Enzymes enhance detergent cleaning for medical use by breaking down proteins and other substances found in blood and other gross soil that cannot be easily removed with solutions containing just detergents, surfactants and water.

Prior to selecting an enzymatic detergent, refer to your endoscope manufacturer's Reprocessing Manual to obtain specifics on compatible reprocessing methods and chemical agents. Keep in mind that the method listed as "compatible" are compatible for routine use only when used according to the manufacturer's instructions. A medical-grade, low-foaming, neutral pH detergent is recommended. Follow the instructions provided by the detergent manufacturer regarding concentration, temperature, contact time and expiration date. Contact your endoscope manufacturer for a list of names of specific brands of detergent solution that have been tested for compatibility with the endoscope. It is not possible for the endoscope manufacturer to test all enzymatic detergents in the market. If a specific enzymatic detergent has not been tested by the endoscope manufacturer - contact the manufacturer of the enzymatic detergent to verify compatibility.

Carefully and thoroughly read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. "More is not better" in endoscope reprocessing. Use of too much detergent may compromise the ability to thoroughly rinse the endoscope prior to high-level disinfection. Biofilm formulation may harbor microorganisms, making strict and meticulous adherence to reprocessing guidelines imperative in order to prevent cross-contamination. Prompt, efficient cleaning processes are the best defense against biofilm formation.

Do not reuse detergent solutions.

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Meticulous cleaning is necessary prior to immersion into a high-level disinfectant. A high-level disinfectant must be cleared by your national regulatory agency for use in reprocessing flexible endoscopes. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding the activation (if required), concentration, temperature, contact time and expiration date.

Reprocessing methods that require higher temperatures and more caustic corrosive materials may lead to faster deterioration of the instrument. Sterilization processes are harsher on equipment than the disinfection process.

The use of non-original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) materials for repairs may affect the material compatibility of the device with certain reprocessing chemicals or methods.

The manufacturer of the HLD will recommend specific test strips for use in documenting minimum effective concentration (MEC) prior to each cycle. The "Pass/Fail" must be documented along with the temperature of the HLD. Logs must be available for review by the facility infection control officer, accreditation bodies and Department of Health.

Personal protective equipment must be worn when reprocessing endoscopes, as exposure to enzymatic detergents, HLD, sterilants and/or body fluids may occur. Gown, gloves, protective eyewear and/or face protection are recommended when handling any HLD/sterilant.

Each endoscopy setting should have a spill containment plan for the chemicals used in their area. The plan must include information from the specific materials safety data sheet (SDS). The plan should include written procedures for actions to contain the spill and deactivate the chemical, an intra and inter-departmental communication plan, and an evacuation plan.

Requirements should either be emailed to Champions@sgna.org or faxed to 312-673-6694 as due. The following are the assignments for the next two weeks:

1. Complete the Education Documentation Grid for **one** activity **(Deadline past: April 30)**
2. Continue to develop and implement infection prevention education for your peers (total of 120 minutes due by December 31)
3. Seek Opportunities to educate yourself on infection prevention topics (total of 180 minutes due by December 31).

These bi-monthly emails will be archived for you to access as needed.

As always, SGNA is available for any questions or difficulties you may have.

Sincerely,
The SGNA Infection Prevention Work Group

The Infection Prevention Champions Program is generously supported by Boston Scientific.

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