POSITION STATEMENT

Reprocessing of Water 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:

Reprocessing refers to the validated process of cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing endoscopes and accessories.

Water Bottle refers to the water container, cap, and tubing that is used for insufflation of air and lens wash (ASGE, 2011).

Background

There is limited research available on the proper cleaning and reprocessing of water bottles used in endoscopy. Recently, other organizations have advocated changing the water bottle and tubing with each patient however there is no existing data to support this recommendation (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy [ASGE], 2011). SGNA encourages research on the topic to better define guidelines for the proper reprocessing of the water bottle.

Position

SGNA supports the following positions:

A. The water bottle is be manually cleaned and high-level disinfected or sterilized (according to manufacturer’s recommendations) at least daily (ASGE, 2011; Beilenhoff, Neumann, 2008). Prior to storage, there should be no residual fluid or moisture remaining in the water bottle assembly. All water bottle surfaces are thoroughly dried to reduce the potential for bacterial colonization (Alvarado et al., 2000; ASGE, 2011; SGNA, 2009).

B. Sterile water should be used in the water bottle for all endoscopic procedures (Alvarado et al., 2000; ASGE, 2011; Beilenhoff et al., 2008).
Reprocessing Water Bottles

References


Recommended Reading


Adopted by the SGNA Board of Directors, May 2002

SGNA Practice Committee 2011 – 12
Michelle Day, MSN BSN RN CGRN - Chair
Michelle R. Juan MSN ACNS-BC RN CGRN – Co-Chair
Kathy Buffington BSN RN CGRN
Rhonda Casey RN BS MHA CGRN
Cynthia M. Friis, MEd BSN RN-BC
Ann Herrin BSN RN CGRN
Judy Lindsay MA BSN RN CGRN
Colleen Keith MSN BSN RN CGRN
Marilee Schmelzer PhD RN
Barbara Zuccala MSN RN CGRN