



Children's Health Ireland

ENDOSCOPES – TAKING WATER SAMPLES AND / OR SWABS FROM AN ENDOSCOPE WASSENBURG WASHER / DISINFECTOR


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Update to: Purpose, Responsibility, Requirements, Procedure for Water Sampling Endoscopes, References	

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1.0 Purpose

To outline the correct procedure for taking water and/or swab samples from Olympus, Wolf, Macheda and Pentax endoscopes and Wassenburg Washer/Disinfector.

2.0 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of nursing and endoscopy Health Care Assistants (HCA) to follow the correct procedure when taking water samples from endoscopes and Wassenburg Washer/Disinfector


3.0 Guideline

Water samples are routinely taken from endoscopes monthly and from Wassenburg washer / disinfectant weekly or after use on patients with known or suspected infection control alert as directed by the Infection Control Department. Follow SOP "Management of endoscope used on patient with known or suspected infection control alert".


All endoscopes are inspected and checked for functionality and for any defects during the water sampling process.

4.0 Requirements

- Instrument trolley
- Green micro form (swabs, fluids, wounds). Relevant culture broth bottles and dry swabs if required.
- Check document on notice board beside washer "Endoscope and Environmental Screening for Microbiology" for exact sample requirement for the Infection Control alert involved and quarantined scope after sampling and swabbing.
- For Bronchoscope:
 - White plastic blocker or small silver blocker for suction button outlet (process with scope)
 - Large silver blocker for battery housing Anaesthetic bronchoscopes
 - 20ml syringes x 1 or 2

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- Gallipot x 1
 - Dressing Drape
 - 10 ml ampoules H₂O x 2
 - Sterile specimen jars
 - Steret x 1 – to clean outside ampoules of water **N.B**
- For Olympus Gastroscopes or Colonoscopes with auxiliary water channel (omit syringe x 1, specimen jar x1, and H₂O x 2 if no Auxiliary channel present):
 - Channel separator (processed with scope)
 - 20ml syringe x 2 / 3
 - Gallipot x 1
 - Dressing drape
 - Green Vygon connector x 2 (Olympus only)
 - 3 way taps x 2 (Olympus only)
 - 10ml ampoules H₂O x 6
 - Sterile specimen jars x 3
 - Steret x 1 (sterile alcowipe) – to clean outside ampoules of water
- For Pentax Gastroscope (no auxiliary channel so omit 1 syringe and 2 H₂O ampoules) or Colonoscope (has auxiliary channel):
 - Use as above but omit 3 way taaps and green vygon connectors method
 - Use sterile gloves throughout sampling procedure
 - Cover trolley with sterile drape
 - Open other items
 - Fill syringes with H₂O
 - When scope has finished its normal cycle in the washer, unload with sterile gloves
 - Attach channel separator
 - Place endoscope safely on the sterile trolley
 - For Olympus scopes, place Vygon connector. Close 3 way tap to suction (3 way tap and Vygon connector not required for Pentax scopes)
 - Syringe water through biopsy channel (blocking the suction channel) while holding the tip over the relevant sterile bottle; this is the biopsy channel


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water sample. Flush again with 20ccs of air and push all water through endoscope.

- o With the second syringe, flush 20 ccs of sterile water through the suction channel (blocking biopsy channel) and continue as previously stated

5.0 Procedure for Water Sampling Endoscopes

- Have your Microbiology Form & the correct endoscope labels ready for use. If the samples are from a patient with any of the suspected infections refer to Appendix 2.
- Use sterile gloves throughout sampling procedure. Decontaminate endoscope in the washer / disinfectant.
- Alcowipe ampules of sterile water before opening.
- Cover instrument trolley with sterile dressing drape.
- Open other items fill all syringes with sterile water
- When cycle in the washer is successfully completed, unload endoscope onto sterile trolley. Attach channel separators or suction blocker if applicable
- For Bronchoscopes; inject 20mls water through suction channel, block biopsy channel with your finger and catch water at distal end of scope into sterile specimen jar. Inject 20mls of water through biopsy channel, block suction channel with your finger and catch water at distal end of scope into sterile specimen jar.
- For Olympus Gastroscope / Colonoscopes; place 1 Vygon connector onto silver suction outlet the other onto the biopsy channel. Attach 3 way tap to both Vygon connectors. Turn off tap to suction outlet.
- Inject water through biopsy channel while holding the tip over the relevant sterile bottle. Inject 20cc of air and this will push remaining water in to your bottle. *This is biopsy channel water sample.*
- With the second water filled syringe turn 3 way tap on to suction.
- Inject water into suction channel, then draw fluid back into syringe. *This is the air/water sample.*
- If auxiliary channel on scope, inject 3rd syringe of water through this channel, catch water at distal end of scope and also aspirate remaining water back through the channel. *This is the auxiliary water sample*

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- When finished label bottles and send to Microbiology for culture. Record water sampling and swabs into the Endoscopy Specimens Record Book kept on the Water Sampling Trolley and record on the Theatre Department Specimen Record Book.

Taking Water Sample from Washer / Disinfector Post Infection Control Alert:

- This is taken after thermal disinfection cycle is complete
- Ensure grey leak test blocker is on red leak test outlet inside relevant bath.
- Select “help” function on display screen. Choose required bath, if indicated on screen.
- Select “ water fill”
- Select “filtered” wait until flow is steady. Don sterile gloves, fill sterile specimen jar with a minimum 20 mls water.
- Select “stop” , then “back”
- Select “drain” if there is a lot of water in the bath.
- Select “back” twice. Then “run”
- Label jar with correct pre prepared labels.
- Fill out microbiology form (swabs / wounds / fluids) with the appropriate infection control alert on the label. Send to microbiology laboratory for culture.
- When finished label bottles and send to Microbiology for culture. Record water sampling and swabs into the Endoscopy Specimens Record Book kept on the Water Sampling Trolley and record on the Theatre Department Specimen Record Book.

6.0 References

HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Operational Management of Endoscope Decontamination Facilities June 2019 V.1 (QPSD-D-082-1)

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