Ultrasound Probe decontamination Policy

Best practice summary has been developed from the national and international guidelines and articles published over the last 5 years (BMUS/SCoR).

This should be implemented across Korus including all ultrasound machines and transducers.

Decontamination is the term used for all aspects of transducer cleaning (Bradley et al, 2018 'Guidance for the decontamination of intracavity medical devices: the report of a working group of the Healthcare Infection Society').

- General US probes (not TVUS) are non-critical devices which pose the lowest risk to patients, because the only contact is with intact skin. Low level disinfection is recommended.
- TVUS probes are semi-critical devices and pose a higher risk than other probes, because of contact with mucous membranes. This requires the use of disinfection – a process which reduces the number of viable micro-organisms . The aim is to reduce the contamination to safe levels.

The basic requirements for good decontamination in practice are as follows:-

- An effective management control system is in place covering all aspects of the decontamination cycle.
- Appropriate equipment is used, maintained and validated.
- Staff are properly trained and supervised.
- Single use medical devices are not re used.
- Records of decontamination are kept.
- Abdominal probes - remove gel and cleaned between every patient with a sanicloth/ clinell wipe.
- TV US probe - require a latex/non latex cover and then cleaning with Tristel Duo for full decontamination, according to Korus policy (see table)

Equality Impact: The guidance contained in this document is intended to be inclusive for all patients regardless of age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and religion or belief.

Cleaning Instructions using Tristel Duo

- Wash hands according to the hand washing policy.
- Wear suitable ppe gloves

- Clean soiled material from transducer using suitable disinfectant wipes (Clinell etc)
- Dispose of disinfectant wipe
- Remove your gloves, and wash hands
- Apply the correct measure of Tristel Duo foam to a clean cloth
- Wipe and clean probe, ensuring that the whole probe is cleaned down to the cable.

Pay particular care to any crevices in the probe.

- Allow to dry for 30 seconds.
- Apply new probe cover using sterile gel.
- Record the cleaning of the vaginal probe in the Soliton NOTES by HCA Audit trail)

Include the following information:

- Foam product batch number and expiry date
- Date and time cleaned.
- Name of staff member undertaking cleaning

If a condom splits during the scan, the probe head must be decontaminated with Tristel Duo

according to departmental guidelines

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