

## Decontamination of Rigid Sigmoidoscopy Equipment

### Purpose

Sigmoidoscopes are used for examining the interior of the rectum and sigmoid colon. Reusable items must be decontaminated to prevent transmission of microorganisms.

### Scope

All areas that use / reprocess rigid sigmoidoscopy equipment

### Associated Documents

CDHB IPC Policy: Reprocessing of Endoscopic Instruments  
CDHB IPC Policy, Standard Precautions

### Procedure

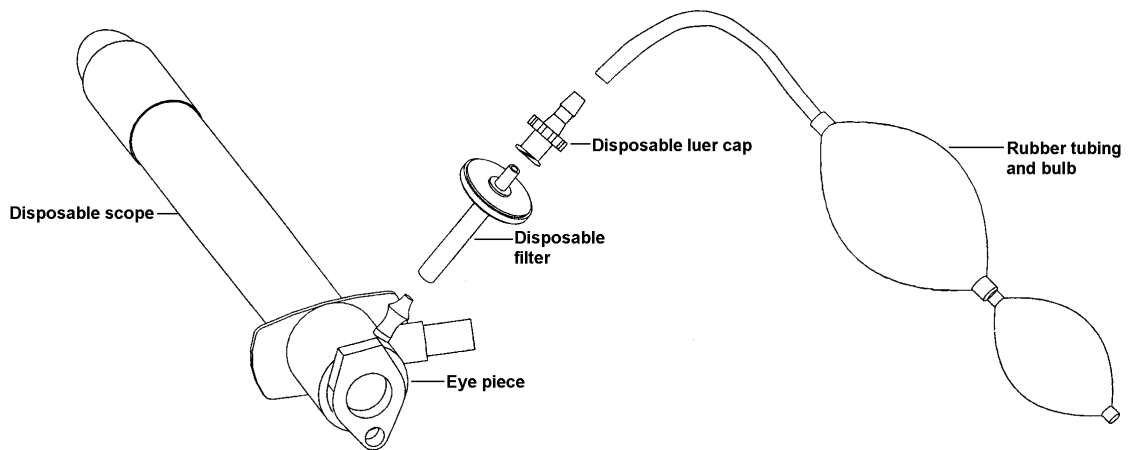
The following recommendations should be followed by all staff involved in rigid Sigmoidoscopy procedure:

Step	Action
1	<p><b>Obtain the equipment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sigmoidoscopy light source.</li> <li>• <b><i>Sterile Supply Department packaged</i></b> eyepiece and bellows (bulb) set</li> <li>• Disposable sigmoidoscope, filter and luer cap</li> <li>• Lubricant</li> <li>• Tissues</li> <li>• Personal Protective Equipment – gloves, apron, eye protection</li> <li>• Trolley with medical waste bag attached</li> </ul>
<p>Procedure is performed by medical staff wearing appropriate PPE and following 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene recommendations.</p>	
2	<p><b>At completion of the procedure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispose of disposable equipment into a medical waste bag, i.e. scope filter, luer cap, tissues and gloves.</li> <li>• Remove the remaining equipment to the “dirty” area of the ward/department, e.g. sluice room.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Cleaning of the equipment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</li> <li>• Ensure all disposable equipment has been discarded, i.e. sigmoidoscope, filter and luer cap (bellows set if applicable)</li> <li>• Arrange for reusable eyepiece and bellows to be sent to Sterile Services (includes OPTH)</li> <li>• Disconnect the light handle from the power supply cord.</li> <li>• Unscrew the <b>outer sleeve</b> of light source and wash with a soft brush in enzymatic detergent and water. Rinse well and dry with a lint free cloth</li> <li>• Wipe over the light handle body and cord with an enzymatic detergent (<u>do not</u> immerse in any solution) and dry with a lint free cloth.</li> </ul>

**The latest version of this document is available on the CDHB intranet/website only.  
Printed copies may not reflect the most recent updates.**

Step	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wipe over light body and outer sleeve with an approved alcohol wipe e.g. Azowipe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Ensure the ward/department is identified to allow the equipment to be sent back to the same area.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> String bags around the bellows balloon should be removed in use as they are a potential risk for infection.</p>
4	Remove personal protective equipment and perform hand hygiene

**Figure 1: Sigmoidoscope**



**References**

CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008  
Welch Allyn Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization Instructions, 2009

<b>Policy Owner</b>	CDHB Infection Prevention & Control Service
<b>Policy Authoriser</b>	Chairperson CDHB ICC
<b>Date of Authorisation</b>	April 2016

**The latest version of this document is available on the CDHB intranet/website only.  
Printed copies may not reflect the most recent updates.**