Guideline: Ultrasound Probe Sterilisation Guideline for the Emergency Department

Overview

Ultrasound Probe Sterilisation is important to prevent cross contamination of infection between patients within the Emergency Department.

This is broken down into two levels.

Low Level Disinfection: Ultrasound Wipes
High Level Disinfection: Trophon Sterilisation (Hydrogen Peroxide Mist)

Purpose

This guideline outlines ultrasound probe sterilisation for Emergency Medicine trainees and Specialists and other doctors working in Middlemore Emergency Department (ED).

Note: This guideline must be read in conjunction with the Ultrasound Credentialing Guideline.

Important:

An ultrasound over mucous membranes or non-intact skin requires a sterile cover and high level cleaning.

Caution: Blood or tissue on the probe should mandate a high level clean as soon as practicable.

Scope of Use

This guideline is applicable to all Drs working within the ED using the ED Ultrasound machines.

Roles and Responsibilities

Sonologists : Drs who have successfully completed a credentialing process in ultrasound / ECHO

For example (Local credentialing process, CCPU, PG Cert/Dip CPU/DDU etc)

a) Responsible for writing reports in the clinical record
b) Teaching
c) Quality and Audit
d) Cleaning - low and high level cleaning

All users of the machines are responsible for cleaning the probes after use.

Health care assistants can be delegated to clean a probe if requiring a high level clean.

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Guideline

Ultrasound Probe Sterilisation Guideline

Low-level disinfection (LLD) must be used in the following situations:

- Before all scans
- After all scans

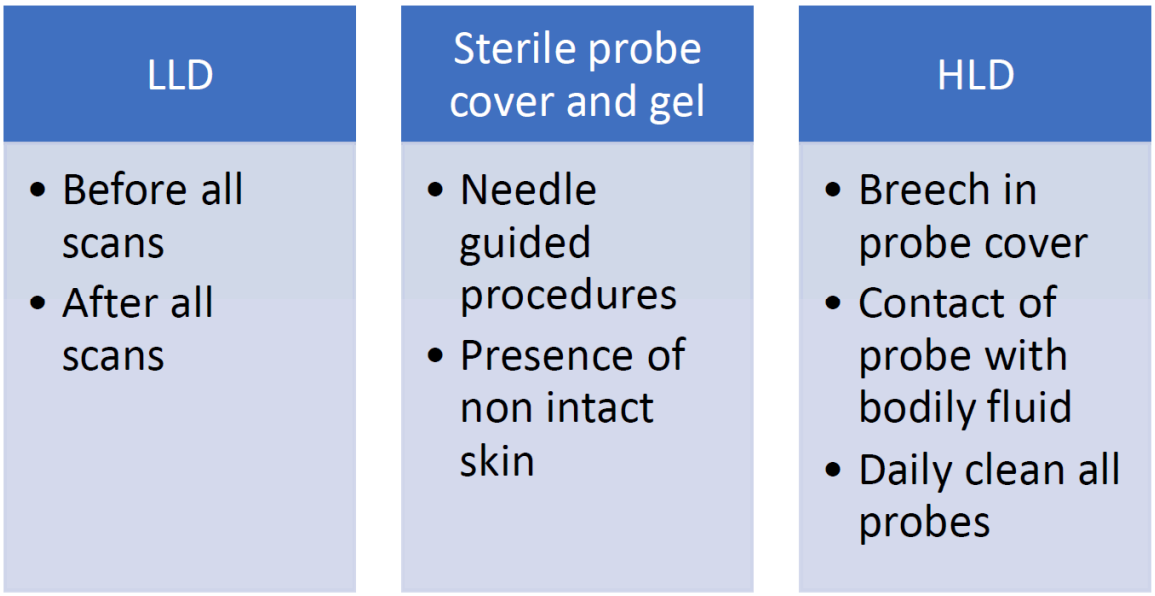
Sterile probe covers and sterile gel must be used in the following situations:

- All needle guided procedures (e.g. peripheral intravenous lines, femoral nerve blocks, central venous lines)
- External ultrasound scans in the presence of non-intact skin (e.g. penetrating trauma, blunt trauma when blood present)

High level disinfection (HLD) must be carried out on the probes in the following situations:

- If there is any concern a breach in the sterile probe cover has occurred
- If there is any contact of the probe with bodily fluids

Daily high-level disinfection of all probes should be carried out.



References

1 ACEM position statement on ultrasound probe cleaning 2019
https://acem.org.au/getmedia/850165eb-0b9b-4aab-82f6-da91b737e406/S686_v1_Statement_Cleaning_Ultrasound_Transducers

2 Guidelines for reprocessing ultrasound transducers 2017
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ajum.12042

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Associated Documents

Other documents relevant to this guideline are listed below:

NZ Legislation & Standards	None
CM Health Documents	Ultrasound Credentialing Guideline
Other related documents	None