# Endoscopy Extended Storage Cabinet Swab Sampling

## Standard Operating Procedure

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Appendix 1 – Algorithm of the process
1.0 Introduction

This document outlines the Cleaning and Swabbing of the Extended Storage Cabinet in the Endoscopy areas in Theatre and OPD.

2.0 Definition of Standard Operating Procedure

SOP: The term ‘Standard Operating Procedure’ is a way of carrying out a particular course of action and includes operations, investigations, pharmaceutical treatment, examinations and any other treatment carried out.

3.0 Applicable to

This SOP is applicable to CNM1 and CNM2 and HCA Endoscopy staff who carry out Cleaning and Swabbing of the Extended Storage Cabinet in the Endoscopy areas in Theatre and OPD.

4.0 Objectives of Standard Operating Procedure

To carry out microbiological screening of the surfaces within the Endoscopy Extended storage cabinet on a monthly basis, to ensure that there are no microbiological contamination present.

5.0 Definition / Terms

Swabbing samples: Microbiology samples taken through the swabbing process of surfaces.

6.0 Procedures

6.1 On a monthly basis take Swabbing samples as follows.

6.2 Don PPE and sterile gloves.

6.3 Remove the Endoscopes from the Endoscopy Extended storage cabinet.

6.4 Wash the inside of the Storage Cabinet with Brial solution and then wipe with Azowipes.

6.5 Take microbiological Swabs from individual endoscope holders and different surfaces as indicated in the “Extended Storage Cabinet Swabbing Sampling Algorithm” in the appendix using new sterile gloves.

6.6 Send the Swabs to the Laboratory for analysis.

6.7 Reprocess the Endoscopes in the Wassenburg Disinfector using sterile techniques (Procedure for Disinfecting Endoscopes Using Wassenburg EWD) and replace the scopes into the Endoscope Extended storage cabinet (Procedure for Loading/Unloading Endoscopes from Extended Storage Cabinet).

6.8 Microbiology will inform the Endoscopy Department on the lab environmental screening results between 5 and 7 days.

6.9 The CNM will review the results and maintain a log if microbiological contamination present.
6.10 The CNM will carry out any actions that are required as per the Extended Storage Cabinet Microbiology / Alert Algorithm.

6.11 Monthly feedback is given on results to the Endoscopy Committee.

7.0 Implementation Plan

The implementation of this SOP should be part of the Endoscopy HCA standard training in the Endoscopy decontamination areas.

8.0 Evaluation and Audit

This processes in this SOP will form part of an overall audit to ensure compliance with the processing of endoscopes in Theatre.

9.0 References (as necessary)


Health Service Executive (2013) National Consent Policy. Dublin: Health Service Executive


Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (201) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives. Dublin: Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland.

NMBI 2016 – Recording Clinical Practice

Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework. Dublin: Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland.


Theatre Department
Nurses & Midwives Act (2011)

Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 201 (S.I. No. 504/201)

10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 - The following is an Algorithm outlining the processes within this SOP

**Extended Storage Cabinet Swabbing Sampling Algorithm**

1. Monthly sampling of the Endoscopy Storage Cabinet on a designated day
2. Sterile gloves and PPE donned
3. Scopes removed from Storage Cabinet
4. Clean Storage Cabinet (inside) with Brioal solution
5. Wipe with Azowipe
6. Take swabs using aseptic technique
7. Theatre: 5 scope holders – swab each scope holder and swab back of cabinet, right & left side, floor and door
8. OPD – 10 scope holders, 5 scope from the right side and 5 from the left side – swab each scope holder and back of cabinet, right & left side, floor and door of the right and left side of the cabinet
9. Swabs transported to laboratory in person
10. Scopes replaced into the cabinet post decontamination
11. Informed of results on lab environmental screening section (5-7 days)
12. Results reviewed by CNM local log maintained with actions as applicable
13. Feedback provided to Endoscopy Committee monthly or as applicable

Laboratory: Samples are tested and Non-conforming results are reviewed by the Consultant Microbiologist who will make a decision on the actions required depending on the type of microbiological contamination found.