



## Nursing Service Guidelines for the Operating Room

**Title:** **REPROCESSING FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPES:  
DELAYED REPROCESSING**

**Responsibility:** Operating Room (OR) Staff (RN and Surgical Technologist)

**Purpose of Guidelines:** The purpose is to provide standardization for the delayed reprocessing of endoscopes to remove organic material when they are heavily soiled or have not been cleaned within the recommended time frame of one hour after pre cleaning. This is prior to manual cleaning and high-level disinfection or sterilization.

**Supplies needed:**

1. Personal protective equipment
2. Leak tester
3. Detergent (cleaning solution)
4. Sink

**Procedure:**

1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
2. Perform Leak Test.
3. Drain leak test water and refill sink with detergent solution at the temperature and concentration recommended by the detergent manufacturer.
4. Completely immerse endoscope in detergent.
5. Fill all channels with detergent solution following manufacturer recommendation.
6. Soak the endoscope for no more than 10 hours at the temperature recommended by the manufacturer. Please note: *When determining how long of an extended soak to perform for a flexible endoscope, if debris has loosened on the external surface of the endoscope, then the conditions on the inside of the channels should be the same as on the surface since the channels are manually filled with detergent solution. Therefore, if the debris on the external surface is confirmed to have been loosened by visual inspection, then the appropriate soak time has been achieved.*
7. Remove endoscope from the detergent solution.
8. Manual cleaning of endoscope according to manufacturer guidelines, then proceed to high-level disinfection or sterilization.

**Warning**

The procedure described in the “Pre-soak for Excessive Bleeding and/or Delayed Reprocessing” guideline is not intended for routine processing. Since the endoscope is soaked for an extended period of time during this process, it should be utilized only when necessary. Routine, prolonged soaking of flexible

endoscopes may result in damage to the instrument.

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