


Name of Policy: Use and Care of Ultrasound Gel Policy Number: 3364-109-EQP-305 Approving Officer: Chair, Infection Control Committee, Chief Medical Officer, Chief of Staff Responsible Agent: Infection Preventionist Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center		 Effective date: Original effective date: 12/20/2004	
Key words: Ultrasound Gel, Infection Risk, Contaminated Products, Prevention, Storage and Use			
<input type="checkbox"/>	New policy proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major revision of existing policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

The recommendations within this policy will be followed by all departments and personnel who use Ultrasound Gel during a procedure.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To reduce the risk of infection related to contaminated products used in or on patients.

(C) Procedure

1. Sterile Gel

- (a) Use sterile gel for all invasive or high-risk procedures in which a device is passed through tissue (e.g., needle aspiration, needle localization, tissue biopsy TEE, transvaginal/rectal procedures with or without biopsy), for all procedures involving a sterile environment or non-intact skin, and for all procedures including PICC and Central lines. Required for any process involving mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or invasive procedures (e.g., endocavitary scans, intraoperative imaging, vascular access, needle guidance, and procedures on immuno-compromised patients).
- (b) Use sterile gel for procedures performed on intact mucous membranes (e.g., esophageal, gastric, rectal, vaginal) and in patients with immunodeficiencies or on immunosuppressive therapy. Use only sterile, single-use packets or manufacturer-supplied sterile prefilled bottles. Do not refill or reuse any sterile gel container after opening. Maintain aseptic technique.
- (c) Follow aseptic technique when using sterile gel. Open packets or bottles immediately prior to use. Prevent the dispensing tip or packet opening from contacting patients, staff, instruments, or the environment. Discard any unused portion after the procedure.

2. Non-Sterile Gel

- (a) Single-use containers are to be used when using non-sterile gel. Use single-use containers for low-risk procedures on intact skin. (Scans of bladder, abdomen, vasculature, PT procedures, and general radiology procedures) Use for low-risk exams on intact skin when no mucous membrane contact is expected (e.g., bladder, abdominal, vascular, musculoskeletal, or other general diagnostic scans).

~~(b) Containers are not to be refilled or topped off. Use only manufacturer-supplied, prefilled disposable bottles. Do not refill or top off bottles. Label bottles with a 28-day expiration date upon opening, discard on that date.~~

~~(c) When opening a new ultrasound gel bottle, place the date of expiration on the bottle for 28 days from date of opening and discard on that date~~

~~(d) Ensure that tips of containers or dispensing nozzles do not come in direct contact with patients, staff, instruments, or the environment. Dispense gel into a medicine cup or on a clean gauze/disposable cloth and then onto patient's skin.~~

~~(c) After each use, wipe the dispensing nozzle clean with an alcohol swab and wipe the outside of the container with a hospital approved disinfectant between patient uses. Prevent the dispensing tip from contacting patients, staff, instruments, or the environment. Dispense gel into a medicine cup or onto clean gauze/disposable cloth before applying to the patient's skin. After each use, wipe the dispensing nozzle with alcohol then clean and disinfect the exterior of the bottle using hospital approved disinfectant wipe.~~

~~(e)(d)~~ For patients on isolation precautions, use a single-use gel packet. If repeat procedures are anticipated, a reusable gel container may be left in the patient's room for their exclusive use. Discard the reusable container when isolation precautions are discontinued. For infrequent procedures, obtain individual gel packets from Distribution Services.

~~(f) If gel is being used on a patient who is in isolation, use a single-use gel container, and leave the reusable container in the room if repeat procedures are necessary, and discard the gel when patient isolation is discontinued. For infrequent procedures, individual packets may be obtained from Distribution Services.~~

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3. Warming gel

(a) Gel warmers should be maintained according to manufacturer's directions and cleaned immediately if the warmer becomes soiled.

4. Storage of ultrasound and medical gel:

(a) Product must be stored in areas that are dry and protected from potential sources of contamination, such as dust, moisture, ~~insects, or rodents or pests.~~

(b) If evidence of contamination is present, or if package integrity has been breached, product must be discarded.

(c) ~~Product~~ Inventory should be rotated by date during restocking.

References:

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<p>Approved by:</p> <p>_____ Michael Ellis, MD Chief Medical Officer and Chair, Infection Control Committee</p> <p>_____ Date</p> <p>_____ Puneet Sindhvani, MD Chief of Staff</p> <p>_____ Date</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed by: Infection Prevention, Infection Control Committee, Chief Medical Officer</i></p>	<p>Policies Superseded by This Policy: • <i>N/A</i></p> <p>Initial effective date: 12/20/2004</p> <p>Review/Revision Date: 07/28/2008 04/25/2011 07/15/2014 05/24/2017 11/15/2019 08/29/2022</p> <p>Next review date:</p>
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