Name of Policy:	Use and Care of Ultrasound Gel	THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Policy Number:	3364-109-EQP-305	
Department:	Infection Control Medical Staff Hospital Administration	
Approving Officer:	Chair, Infection Control Committee Chief of Staff Chief Medical Officer	
Responsible Agent:	Infection Preventionist	
Scope:	The University of Toledo Medical Center and its Medical Staff	Effective Date:09/06/2022Initial Effective Date:12/20/2004
New policy proposal X Minor/technical revision of existing policy   Major revision of existing policy 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 <u>sterile gel</u> 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.
  - (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.
  - (c) Follow aseptic technique when using sterile gel.
- 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)
  - (b) Containers are not to be refilled or topped off.
  - (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.
  - (e) 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.

- (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.
- 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.
  - (b) If evidence of contamination is present, or if package integrity has been breached, product must be discarded.
  - (c) Product should be rotated by date during restocking.

## References:

AJIC: Tiffany Simon & Dana Chapman (June 2019) What's in Your Bottle? Investigating a Pseudo-outbreak of *Burkholderia cepacia*. American Journal of Infection Control, Volume 47, Issue 6, Supplement, S8-S9, https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(19)30380-3/pdf

APIC: Kao, Hong K et al (2014) Interventional Radiology. Association of Professional in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) Text, Volume 2 Pages 20-21.

Infection Control Today: Researchers Propose Guidelines for Ultrasound Gel and Infections to Reduce Risk, November 13, 2012. https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/researchers-propose-guidelines-ultrasound-gel-and-infections-reduce

MMWR: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Respiratory Tract Infections Associated with Contaminated Ultrasound Gel Used for Transesophageal Echocardiography-Michigan, December 2011-January 2012. CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) April 20, 2012/61(15);262-264. <u>https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6115a3.htm?s\_cid=mm6115a3\_w</u>

Approved by: /s/ Michael Ellis, M.D. Chair, Infection Control Committee	09/06/2022 Date	Review/Revision Date:     07/28/2008     04/25/2011     07/15/2014     05/24/2017     11/15/2019     08/29/2022	
/s/ Andrew Casabianca, M.D. Chief of Staff	09/06/2022 Date		
/s/ Michael Ellis, M.D. Chief Medical Officer	09/06/2022 Date		
Review/Revision Completed By: Infection Control Committee			
		Next Review Date: 09/2025	
olicies Superseded by This Policy:			