

# Top Ten Tips

## Endoscope Decontamination

- 1 Compatibility**  
Ensure compatibility with the existing hospital decontamination processes, including compatibility with the washer disinfectant, when purchasing.
- 2 Instructions**  
Ensure that all equipment is operated and controlled in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
- 3 Identification**  
Identify all endoscopes and washer disinfectants used in the hospital to ensure they are being maintained and that the correct decontamination process is being used.
- 4 Channel connection**  
Check the number of channels in each endoscope and ensure that they can all be connected to the washer disinfectant using the correct connectors/connection sets provided by the manufacturer.
- 5 Manual cleaning**  
Ensure endoscopes and accessories are manually cleaned prior to processing in a washer disinfectant including the flushing of **all** channels even if they have not been used during the procedure.
- 6 Chemical compatibility**  
Use only chemicals compatible with the endoscope and their accessories and at the correct concentration as recommended by the manufacturer throughout the decontamination process.
- 7 Process validation**  
Use only validated processes following guidance in NHS Estates HTM 2030 Washer Disinfectants, MHRA Device Bulletin DB2002(05) and MAC Manual on Decontamination.
- 8 Preventative maintenance**  
Have a regular planned preventative maintenance in place with records kept on each washer disinfectant.
- 9 Staff training**  
Ensure all staff, including new staff, involved in the decontamination process are fully trained and that this training is kept up to date as appropriate\*.
- 10 Incident reporting**  
Report any equipment problems relating to endoscope, endoscope washer disinfectant or associated chemicals to the MHRA via our website [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk) or e-mail: [aic@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:aic@mhra.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 020 7084 3080. Report identified problems with any decontamination process to the local consultant in communicable disease control (CCDC) at your local health protection unit.

**Products claiming to remove/inactivate prion protein from contaminated medical devices:** It is important that until the efficacy of these products and technologies is established fully against human prions, that clinicians ensure the current ACDP-TSE Guidelines remain extant. (The reference for the Guidelines is: ACDP - *TSE agents: Safe working and the prevention of infection*; available on the Department of Health website [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk))

Comprehensive advice and guidance can be found in MHRA Device Bulletin DB2002(05) 'Decontamination of Endoscopes', available from [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk)

\*An e-learning course on decontamination is available from the National Decontamination Training Programme (<http://decontaminationtraining.nhsestates.gov.uk>) which includes a module on endoscopy. In addition, endoscope manufacturers run courses in endoscope decontamination.

**Note:** The importance of decontamination needs to be clearly understood at all levels throughout the organisation. There could be legal implications if failures in this process are identified.