

July 22, 2021

Dear Customer,

This letter is regarding the use of non-linting wipes products: # NLW001, NLW002, NLW003.

These wipes are intended for use immediately after an item has been used for cleaning and before automated or manual disinfection to ensure items are dry.

Per endoscope IFUs, the recommendation is to use sterile non-linting wipes for drying an item, such as an endoscope, after disinfection/prior to storage. However, current standards and professional society guidelines do not require sterile non-linting wipes for drying after disinfection/before storage. AAMI ST91 (section 8.2.5.1) states the endoscope and its components should be dried after the completion of the cleaning and disinfection process. Section 8.2.5.2 further states that the exterior of the endoscope and removable endoscope parts are dried using unused, clean, or sterile non-linting cloths. Therefore, sterile is listed as an option but not a requirement of ST91.

The following types of statements are found in many endoscope IFUs from Olympus and Fuji:

- Use sterile equipment (e.g., sterile syringes and cloths) for all reprocessing steps occurring after immersion of the endoscope and accessories in disinfectant solution
- When rinsing and drying the endoscope and accessories after high-level disinfection, the use of sterile equipment (e.g., basin, cloths, syringes, etc.) is recommended
- Cover the distal end and the control section of the endoscope with a sterile, lint-free cloth(s) to prevent splashing from the channel openings
- Thoroughly dry the external surfaces of the endoscope, channel plug, and injection tube by wiping with a sterile, lint-free cloth(s)
- Following disinfection, it is very important not to recontaminate the endoscope and accessories with potentially infectious microorganisms. When rinsing and drying the endoscope and accessories, following disinfection, the use of sterile equipment (e.g., basins, cloths, syringes, etc.) is recommended.

Yet, endoscope IFUs also state that if sterile equipment is not available, use clean equipment that does not recontaminate the endoscope and accessories with potentially infectious microorganisms. Consult with your hospital's infection control committee regarding local policies or requirements regarding reprocessing equipment.

Therefore, it is a healthcare facility's decision to make about the use of sterile wipes for drying an endoscope after disinfection/prior to storage, as opposed to clean, non-sterile wipes for drying.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you.

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