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Reusable flow sensors of Hamilton Medical

Pasteurization for re-processing

Pasteurization is a high level disinfection (HLD) process using hot water at a temperature of 75°C, for a contact time for 30 minutes or longer. High level disinfection process destroys vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi and enveloped (lipid) and non-enveloped (non-lipid) viruses, but not necessarily bacterial spores. HLD methods, including pasteurization, are indicated to decontaminate / reprocess semi-critical reusable medical devices such as those for anesthesia and respiratory therapy. Due to non-toxicity and moderate heat, pasteurization is particularly suitable for temperature sensitive plastic devices (Key references are provided on the next page).

On this basis, we recommend use of pasteurization, as one applicable method, to re-process the reusable flow sensor (PN 155362) of Hamilton Medical. It is indicated by the internal and external validation that the flow sensor remains functional as specified after 5 reprocessing cycles, at least.

Further, we suggest considering use of advanced washer-disinfectors (WDs) which is based on pasteurization principle. With WDs, cleaning – disinfection – drying process is automatically completed according to the settings (See the next page for the information of WD manufacturers).

After reprocessing, every flow sensor must pass the flow sensor calibration before being used to the next patient. Discard those flow sensors which fail the test twice.

The reprocessing process should be validated microbiologically according to hospitals' policies of infection control.

CAUTION This recommendation does not apply for any accessory claimed for single use.

With kind regards

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Key references

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3. National coordinating committee on therapeutic goods, Australia: "Reducing public health risks associated with reusable medical devices." (2004)
4. FDA CDRH "Guidance document for washers and washer-disinfectors intended for processing reusable medical devices." (1998)
5. CDC: "Guidelines for preventing health-care-associated pneumonia." (2003)
6. EN ISO 15883-1 and 2: 2006 "Washer-disinfectors"
7. EN ISO 17664: 2004: "Sterilization of medical devices – information to be provided by the manufacturer for the processing of resterilizable devices."
8. AORN: "Recommended practices for cleaning, handling, and processing anesthesia equipment." (2005)
9. WA Rutala, et al: "Efficacy of a washer-pasteurizer for disinfection of respiratory-care equipment." Infect control Hosp Epidemiol 2000; 21: 333-336
10. CY Wang, et al: "Pasteurization is effective against multidrug-resistance bacteria." Am J Infect Control. 2006; 34(5); 320-2

Some washer-disinfector manufacturers

- www.cenorin.com
- www.belimed.com
- www.natus.com