

March 31, 2020

Re: Reprocessing Olympus Bronchoscopes in the Time of COVID-19

Dear Valued Olympus Customer:

This letter is in response to your inquiry regarding reprocessing Olympus bronchoscopes in the current setting of COVID-19 infections caused by the SARS-CoV-2 human coronavirus.

At the time of communication, Olympus recommends reprocessing Olympus bronchoscopes according to applicable instructions for use (IFUs) and standard practices relating to the relevant bronchoscope, automated endoscope reprocessor (AER), and any reprocessing consumable products or accessories. No additional manual cleaning or disinfecting/sterilization steps are required when reprocessing Olympus bronchoscopes that have been used on/around patients with COVID-19 or on/around patients exhibiting related clinical symptoms.

Olympus' position on this topic is consistent with current recommendations from the American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (AABIP)¹ and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).²

The CDC recommends protecting healthcare personnel (including reprocessing staff) by emphasizing hand hygiene, limiting contact with patients when possible, emphasizing proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and implementing PPE optimization strategies, in the event applicable supplies becomes scarce.²

Finally, Olympus suggests that you work with your internal infection control personnel to address and implement any changes to your endoscopic reprocessing systems or controls.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Olympus Technical Support Center at 1-888-387-4022.

Thank you for your attention.

REPROCESSING STRATEGY OFFICE
Medical Systems Group

1. Wahidi MM, Lamb C, Murgu S et al. American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (AABIP) Statement on the Use of Bronchoscopy and Respiratory Specimen Collection in Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Infection. [published online ahead of print (March 19, 2020)]. J Bronchology Interv Pulmonol. 2000.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) or Persons Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV in Healthcare Settings. Accessed March 26, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>.