Reprocessing

Reprocessing Enhancements for Reusable Medical Devices to Promote Patient and Healthcare Professional Safety

Olympus has delivered high performance medical technologies across multiple diagnostic and therapeutic areas throughout its long history in endoscopy. Further, Olympus and its healthcare partners recognize that advancements in endoscopy play an important role in advancing patient care. As a key component to the safe and effective use of reusable endoscopes, reprocessing (cleaning, disinfection, and/or sterilization) is gathering more attention from regulatory authorities and hospitals owing in large part to reports of infection events associated with endoscopes. Moreover, hospitals are increasingly encountering novel microorganisms and viruses, such as multidrug-resistant bacteria and the COVID-19 virus. Olympus is committed to playing an important role in safety by addressing these challenges and pushing itself to ensure that safe, effective products reach those who need them the most.

Endoscope reprocessor
Launched in China and some Asian countries

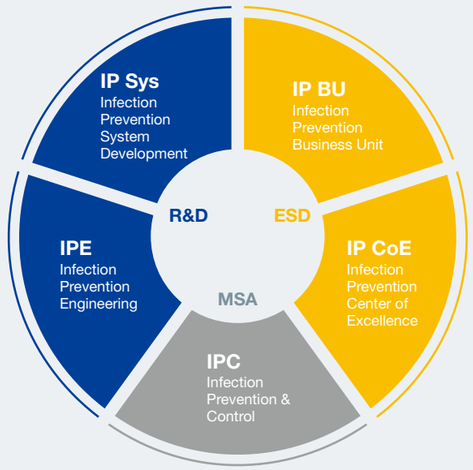
Established a Dedicated Unit to Take Prompt Action against the Cross-infection Issues Worldwide

The medical business direction announced in December 2021, makes our commitment clear by placing infection prevention as a fourth pillar of business focus. In furtherance of this commitment, infection prevention has gained an increasing presence in various areas of the Olympus organization, our core business, and specifically in the areas of R&D and Medical and Scientific Affairs (MSA). And we are carrying out organizational reforms to focus on infection prevention in close cooperation with each area.

The newly established IP CoE is aiming for an infection-free future and is proactively working on topics that cross business units, R&D, and MSA functions related to infection prevention and clarify the vision of infection prevention. Based on IP CoE's vision, the infection prevention business unit (IP BU) will develop business activities and service offering to support organic and in-organic growth.

IP sys and IPE both R&D departments developing next generation technologies and solutions, such as automatic endoscope reprocessors intended to improve the efficiency of reprocessing and further enhance the safety of our products.

Finally, Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) belonging to the area of Medical Safety within MSA, ensures the science and evidence-related basis of all Olympus interactions with internal and external stakeholders, including know-how and education for specialized knowledge.



Enlightenment and Educational Activities for Internal and External Stakeholders

Olympus has set up a dedicated website for infection prevention to support healthcare professionals*. Through this platform, we provide information on infection prevention, microbiology, reprocessing processes, equipment, and various guidance required for product-specific reprocessing, as well as practical data-driven advice and videos such as e-learning and Video Reprocessing Guide.

* As of September 2022, the website is not yet available for healthcare professionals in some countries, including, but not limited to Japan.

Details https://infectionprevention.olympus.com/en-us/

COLUMN

Replacement Activity with the Latest Duodenoscope

We introduced a duodenoscope with a removable cap to Europe and Asia in 2019, and to the United States in the spring of 2020, which is designed to improve visualization of the distal end for manual cleaning and disinfection. To further our goal of infection prevention, we are promoting activities to replace prior generation duodenoscopes with a new duodenoscope with a removable cap, and we will further strengthen this replacement program worldwide. We are also providing dedicated intensive training on how to reprocess duodenoscopes for all customers independent on the model of duodenoscope they use.

Improvement Activities for Reprocessing Duodenoscopes: Revision of User Manuals

Because the distal end of duodenoscopes has a more complex structure than other endoscopes, reprocessing of duodenoscopes requires a multitude of steps. We have revised the reprocessing manual in order to more clearly instruct the cleaning steps in an easier-to-understand manner with the intent to reduce mistakes during the cleaning procedure. In the new reprocessing manual, the notation method has been completely reviewed, to include using color display, detailed illustrations, adoption of easy-to-understand icons or symbols, and notional changes to more specific workflow procedures, etc.