ULTRASONIC/CONDUCTION GELS

POLICY:

All ultrasonic/conduction materials will be used and maintained in a manner to decrease the risk of cross-contamination.

BACKGROUND:

Contaminated ultrasonic/conduction gels have been the source of outbreaks.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- **ONLY** unopened containers of ultrasonic gel labeled as sterile may be used for procedures requiring a sterile product.
  Sterile products must be used as recommended in clinical practice standards for all sterile body site procedures and any invasive procedures using ultrasound guided biopsy. In addition, sterile products must be used for procedures with mucosal contact where biopsy is not planned but any possible contamination may be undesirable or mucosal trauma may be likely. These procedures include, but are not limited to, transesophageal echocardiography (TEE), transvaginal ultrasound procedures without biopsy, and transrectal ultrasound procedures without biopsy.
- Any product labeled as non-sterile or not labeled as to sterility will be considered **NOT** sterile.
- Any product opened is not sterile and contamination during ongoing use is possible.
- Never refill or “top off” containers of ultrasonic gel. The original container should be used and then discarded.
- Single patient containers are available and must be used as much as possible.
- Use open containers of ultrasound gel only for low risk procedures on intact skin and on low risk patients. The maximum volume permitted is 240-250

ml. Any non-single use container must be dated and discarded within **twenty-eight (28) days** of opening. **NEVER** use a product beyond the manufacturer's expiration date.

- All products must be ordered through Materials Management.
- Report any suspected contamination to Materials Management and Infection Control.

REFERENCES:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention