

# Decontamination of breast pump equipment.

## 1. Introduction and Who Guideline applies to

The gold standard would be to reprocess the breast pump equipment in Sterile Services Department (SSD) following each individual use (i.e. single use). This however is not practical as there is neither the capacity in the SSD to facilitate this, nor is there an adequate supply of breast pumps to meet the demand. Guidelines have therefore been drawn up for single patient use of the breast pump equipment to ensure that it is correctly used and decontaminated to minimise the infection risk to the baby. The equipment has been purchased as single patient use and therefore must NOT be sent to SSD following patient discharge.

Currently UHL utilises the terms 'woman' and 'women' within their obstetric and maternity guidelines but these recommendations will also apply to people who do not identify as women but are pregnant or have given birth.

This guideline is applicable to all UHL Trust staff members, including registered and un-registered staff, who are involved in the care of patients who wish to express their breast milk. For feeding advice and sterilisation of other equipment please refer to -

### **Related documents:**

**Infant Feeding Policy UHL LLR and Childrens Centre Services UHL Trust ref: E1/2015**

**Bottle Feeding UHL Obstetric Guideline UHL Trust ref: C31/2011**

**Cleaning and Decontamination for Infection Prevention UHL Policy**

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## **2. Guideline Standards and Procedures**

### **2.1 Supply of equipment within UHL**

Women who wish to express their milk must be issued with a sterile breast pump kit (or two kits if double pumping) a tank for their sole use for the duration of their stay or a microwave sterilising bag.

Tanks must be cleaned every 24 hours by an appropriately trained member of staff and replenished with fresh sterilising fluid.

Microwave sterilising bags are only used the number of times indicated on the bag. Bags should be kept with the Mother/Parent who is expressing.

### **2.2 Cleaning and decontamination of breast pump equipment**

Clear instructions on cleaning and decontamination of breast pump equipment must be provided.

A standard procedure for decontaminating used breast pump equipment should be followed.

One breast pump kit or two kits if double pumping, must be used by one patient for the duration of their stay, if less than a week. On the neonatal unit or where expressing may go on for some time, the breast pump kit should be inspected for damages and replaced if required and/or if it has been more than 7 days in use.

Tanks must be fit for the intended purpose, with a sealable lid and an internal tray to aid submersion.

Tanks or microwave sterilising bag and breast pump equipment must be labelled with the mothers'/birthing parent name and hospital number.

Once the mother/birthing parent & baby have been discharged, single patient use breast pump kits and microwave sterilising bag must be discarded or given to the mother to take home for personal use.

Where a mother/ birthing parent is admitted to a general adult ward and requires a breast pump please contact the infant feeding coordinator : 07765787279

#### **2.2.1 Sterilising tank cleaning**

Tanks must be cleaned every 24 hours by an appropriately trained member of staff.

The tanks must be decontaminated by an appropriately trained member of staff on a 24 hour basis using a neutral detergent and water then dried and this should be documented on a label attached to sterilising tank and recorded in a designated log book.

An appropriately trained member of staff must refill the tank with sufficient sterilising solution every 24 hours.

Sterilisation solution must be made up using the manufacturer's recommendations.

### **2.2.2 Provision of information and instruction on the cleaning and decontamination of breast pump equipment**

Each birthing parent must be instructed how to correctly clean and decontaminate their breast pump equipment by an appropriately trained member of staff.

Once the trained member of staff is satisfied that the birthing parent has understood their instructions, the birthing parent can continue to decontaminate their equipment. The person who instructed the birthing parent must document this in the hand held and/or electronic records

If the understanding of the parent is in doubt, an appropriately trained member of staff must be present when the birthing parent is cleaning and decontaminating the equipment.

### **2.2.3 Standard procedure for decontaminating used breast pump equipment**

- Wash hands.
- Clean all breast pump equipment with hot water and a neutral detergent. A brush should be supplied that can be sterilised and is allocated for the use of that family only. This brush should be used to ensure all surfaces are clean.
- Rinse.
- **If using a microwave sterilising bag:** Follow the instructions on the bag.
- The tubing should **not** need to be sterilised but wiped clean. Mothers/birthing parents should be instructed in the use of the microwave bag and warned about the hot water and steam that collects inside the bag and so care should be taken when removing the bag from the microwave.
- Label the bag with the Mother's /birthing parent's name and Hospital number.
- Tick the appropriate box at each use to record the number of times the bag has been used.
- Any brushes that have been used to clean equipment, if they are made of microwavable plastic, can be sterilised in the microwave bag.
- **If using a tank:** Submerge equipment into a tank of sterilising solution, eliminate all air bubbles, and ensure that all surfaces come into contact with the solution. NB Tubing needs to be wiped clean only and NOT submerged in sterilising solution as this leads to water droplets being retained in the tubing.
- Keep any brushes that have been used to clean the equipment in the tank

- Apply the internal tray to ensure that all equipment in the tank remains below the water level.
- Seal the tank.
- Label tank with:
  - Name
  - Hospital number
  - Date and time solution changed and when ready for use
- Leave equipment for 30 minutes, or follow manufacturer’s instructions. No additional equipment should be added to the tank during this period
- It is not necessary to rinse off the sterilising solution prior to use. If it does need to be rinsed this should be with recently cooled boiled or sterile water

### **3. Education and Training**

Staff are trained as part of their mandatory Infant Feeding Training and one to one as required.

### **4. Monitoring Compliance**

<b>What will be measured to monitor compliance</b>	<b>How will compliance be monitored</b>	<b>Monitoring Lead</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Reporting arrangements</b>
Decontamination standards are met	Infection prevention audit	IP lead	Annually	Trust infection prevention committee

### **5. Supporting References**

NONE

### **6. Key Words**

Breast milk, Breast pump kit, Expressing, Microwave sterilising bag, Sterile, Sterilising Tank.

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**The Trust recognises the diversity of the local community it serves. Our aim therefore is to provide a safe environment free from discrimination and treat all individuals fairly with dignity and appropriately according to their needs. As part of its development, this policy and its impact on equality have been reviewed and no detriment was identified.**

<b><u>Contact and review details</u></b>			
<b>Guideline Lead (Name and Title)</b> A Raja - Infant Feeding Coordinator		<b>Executive Lead</b> Chief Nurse	
<b>Details of Changes made during review:</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Issue Number</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Description Of Changes (If Any)</b>
<b>November 2021</b>	<b>3</b>	A Raja Infant Feeding Coordinator A Smith - Senior Neonatal Homecare Nurse Maternity guidelines group UHL Infection prevention committee	Gender neutral language. Replacement of breast pump equipment if damaged or after 7 days. Added monitoring criteria