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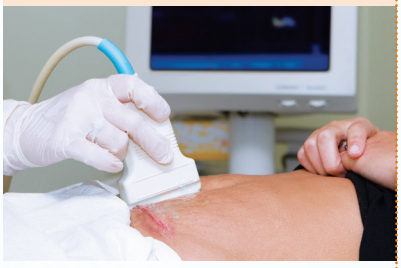
High Level Disinfection for Ultrasound Probes

When to HLD with trophon2?

Procedure	Probe will only contact healthy, intact skin	Probe may contact mucous membranes and non-intact skin	Probe may contact sterile tissue or blood
Spaulding Classification	**Non-Critical** • surface ultrasound (intact skin)	**Semi-Critical** **Intracavity** • transvaginal scans • transrectal scans **Surface ultrasound (broken skin)** • wound scanning • burn evaluation	**Critical** • intraoperative procedures • drainages • biopsies • needle guidance • transvaginal oocyte retrieval • venous catheter placement • vascular ablation
			
Disinfection / Sterilisation Requirements	**LLD or HLD** 	**HLD** 	**Sterilise* or HLD** 

Probe is trophoned and ready for procedure

*Critical probes should be sterilised, or can also be high level disinfected and used with a sterile sheath. Note: The use of a sheath does not negate the need for HLD.[1]

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Why HLD?

The Guidelines

The Spaulding Classification forms the basis for multiple Australian and US standards and guidelines.

The ACIPC-ASUM Guidelines on the reprocessing of ultrasound transducers (released February 2017) follow Australian and New Zealand standards (AS/NZS 4187:2014 and AS/NZS4815:2006). The ACIPC-ASUM guidelines are a world first joint guideline between an infection prevention and ultrasound society and form the minimum recommended practice for reprocessing ultrasound transducers in Australia.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare are also a useful resource for determining the Spaulding classification of ultrasound probes.

In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regulates the use of disinfectants for the reprocessing of medical devices. The TGA sets requirements for the clearance of disinfectants such as high level disinfectants (HLDs) in terms of efficacy, material compatibility and performance.

Australian guidelines for ultrasound probe reprocessing are in alignment with guidelines from the US, UK, Ireland and Canada.

Ensure you comply

- The ACIPC-ASUM Guidelines state that *"If the transducer comes in direct contact with non-intact skin, blood or mucous membranes transducers should be cleaned with [and undergo] HLD"*

Protecting probes after HLD?

Correct storage of ultrasound probes is a crucial reprocessing step. Recontamination of probes after HLD is possible, as probes are routinely handled by staff and exposed to the environment before being used again.

Using a storage cabinet is a good idea to further protect from recontamination, however a probe cover should still be used. Probes should be protected from the time they are HLD, right up until they are used again on the next patient.

Nanosonics' Clean Ultrasound Probe Covers protect intracavity and surface ultrasound probes from the risk of recontamination through handling or the environment after high level disinfection (HLD). They protect the entire probe including the handle.

Learn more at
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References 1. ACIPC-ASUM. Guidelines for Reprocessing Ultrasound Transducers. Australasian Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine. 2017;20(1):30-40.

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