APPENDIX 7: NHSScotland Semi-critical Ultrasound Probe (semi-invasive and non-invasive) Decontamination Algorithm

**Probe used on Mucous membranes or broken skin?**

- **No**
  - Non-invasive procedure
    - i.e. Intact skin (No blood or body fluid exposure anticipated)
    - Abdo U/S
    - Pelvic U/S
    - If required ensure recommended sheath is correct size for probe required

- **Yes**
  - Semi-critical procedure (semi-invasive and non-invasive)
    - i.e. Mucous membranes
    - TOE/TRV/TR probes
    - i.e. Non intact skin
    - Venepuncture/Cannulation
    - Wound/cavity assessment
    - If required ensure recommended sheath is correct size for probe

**Blood or body fluids noted during procedure?**

- **No**
  - Follow cleaning guidance in the NIPCM

- **Yes**
  - Pre-clean
    - Following U/S scan remove & dispose sheath in clinical waste steam.
    - Inspect probe and cable
    - Remove U/S gel residue by wiping with a non-linting cloth
    - Dispose of probe accessories in clinical waste stream
    - Disconnect probe (if possible) and take to area approved for probe decontamination
    - Inspect probe & cable for damage

  - Cleaning procedure
    - Clean probe & cable with a compatible detergent wipe
    - Rinse and dry probe and cable
    - Inspect probe & cable for damage
    - Clean probe holder with a compatible detergent wipe
    - Rinse and dry probe holder

  - Replace cleaned probe in probe holder
  - Dispose of waste in clinical waste stream

**High Level Disinfection (HDL) Procedure**

- Following one of the HLD methods set out in NHSScotland Guidance for decontamination of Semi-critical (semi-invasive and non-invasive) Ultrasound Probes
  - Ultra-violet light
  - Hydrogen Peroxide
  - Manual wipe (chlorine dioxide)

- TOE probes where pre arranged can be transferred to an endoscopy decontamination unit (EDU) for decontamination

  - Pre arranged requires the Decontamination Lead and the IPCT to approve local procedures.

---

The procedures set out in this algorithm should be undertaken following:

- **Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICP)** within the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM)
  - [http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/](http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/)

- The NHSScotland Guidance for decontamination of Semi-critical (semi-invasive and non-invasive) Ultrasound Probes

- **SOPS: Decontamination procedure for HLD of semi-critical Ultrasound Probes (semi-invasive and non-invasive) using:**
  - Ultra-violet light
  - Hydrogen Peroxide
  - Manual wipe (chlorine dioxide)