

Design for Reprocessing:

Using Guidelines to Improve Safety
for Patients and Personnel

Learner Guide

What do Guidelines Recommend?

All guidelines are consistent on key issues:

- Segregated areas for procedure, cleaning, reprocessing and storage
- Doors or pass-through windows separate clean from dirty
- Minimum of two separate sinks/basins for leak testing, cleaning and rinsing
- Positive air pressure in clean areas
- Emergency eyewash stations near chemicals
- Humidity levels appropriate for activity
- Workflow is unidirectional
- Adequate linear work space for handling scopes
- Negative air pressure in dirty areas
- Designated hand hygiene sinks in processing areas
- Controlled access

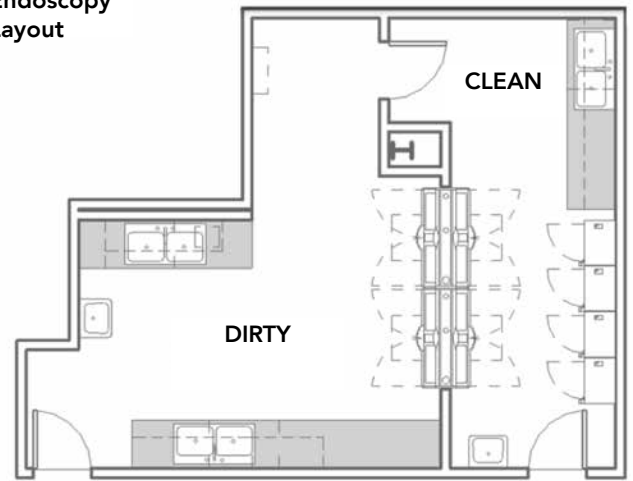
Design Guidelines Comparison

	AAMI	AORN	CDC/HICPAC	SGNA
Physical Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass through window between dirty & clean • Provide adequate space to promote infection prevention & staff safety • Include designated drying area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 separate processing rooms = ideal • 1 room w/ barrier = acceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing room separate from procedure room • Designated space to access files/records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing room separate from procedure room • Adequate space for reprocessing activities; include air drying & magnification capability
Temp/Humidity	60-73° F 20-60%	60-73° F 20-60%	68-73° F 30-60%	No guidance
Sinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16x30", 8-10" deep • > 2 sinks (or 1 with 2 basins) = acceptable • 3 sinks = ideal • Separate scope & handwash sinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 sinks = ideal • 2 sinks = acceptable • Separate scope & handwash sinks 	No guidance	No guidance
Air Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative air pressure in cleaning room • Negative air pressure in combo cleaning/processing room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative air pressure in cleaning room • Negative air pressure in bronchoscopy procedure rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative air pressure in cleaning room • Negative air pressure in procedure room - patients with infectious diseases 	Negative pressure in reprocessing room
Storage	Separate area designated for storage	No guidance	No guidance	No guidance
Workflow	Unidirectional	Unidirectional	Unidirectional	Unidirectional

Typical Endoscopy Layout



Ideal Endoscopy Layout



Design and Layout Comparison

	UNACCEPTABLE	ACCEPTABLE	IDEAL
Physical Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure and processing done in same room • Less than 3 feet separating dirty & clean, no barrier • No place to dry scopes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure room separate from reprocessing area • 1 room with distinct dirty and clean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with barrier if less than 3 feet between cleaning sink & HLD area • without barrier if more than 3 feet between cleaning sink & HLD area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure room separate from reprocessing area • 2 rooms for reprocessing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirty/decontam • Clean/HLD • Separated by door or pass-through window • Designated drying area • Dedicated room for storage • Designated space to access files/records
Temp/Humidity	< 60° or > 73° F Humidity above 60%	60-73° F 20-60%	60-73° F 30-60%
Sinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow &/or small sinks • 1 sink with 1 basin • No handwash sink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 sinks – adequate size • 1 sink with 2 basins – adequate size • Separate scope & handwash sinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 separate cleaning sinks – adequate size • Leak testing, manual cleaning & rinsing • Separate scope & handwash sink
Air Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive air pressure in cleaning room • Positive air pressure in combo cleaning/processing room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative air pressure in cleaning room • Negative air pressure in bronchoscopy procedure rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative air pressure in cleaning room • Positive air pressure in HLD room • Negative air pressure in procedure room – patients with infectious diseases
Storage	Scope storage done in procedure room, in open cabinet	Scope storage in separate room in cabinet	Dedicated, controlled access storage space in purpose-built drying/storage cabinet
Workflow	Every direction at once	Unidirectional	Unidirectional

RESOURCES

- American National Standards Institute/Association for Advancement of Medical Instrumentation. (2105). Flexible and semi-rigid endoscope processing in health care facilities (ANSI/AAMI ST91:2015, pp. 9-14). Arlington, VA.
- Association of PeriOperative Nurses. (2016). Guidelines for Perioperative Practice, Guideline for Processing Flexible Endoscopes (AORN, pp-677-686). Denver, CO
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2019). Safety and Health Regulations for Construction; Subpart C, General Safety and Health Provisions, Personal protective equipment. e_CFR 1926.28(a). Washington, DC.
- Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (2018). Standards of Infection Prevention in Reprocessing Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopes (pp.13-14). Chicago, IL.

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