This fact sheet has been developed to assist with compliance of quality control recommendations related to microbiological testing of final rinse water from the Steris™ automated flexible endoscope reprocessor (AFER).

Overview

The Infection Control in Endoscopy Guidelines developed by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia recommend that the final rinse water of all automatic flexible endoscope reprocessors be microbiologically monitored every four (4) weeks.

Recommendation for Sample Collection from Steris™

On completion of the endoscope reprocessing cycle:

1. don sterile gloves
2. remove scope and hold vertically above the machine to allow fluid to drain into the bottom of the machine
3. use a sterile syringe (without a needle) to draw up the fluid remaining in the bottom of the machine (at least 50 ml)
4. transfer fluid from syringe into a sterile container
5. label the sterile container and with the appropriate completed request form, forward to the laboratory responsible for the microbiological testing of scopes
6. if the result of the microbiological testing is positive, refer to the Interpretation of Cultures section of Infection Control in Endoscopy (current edition). Discuss the significance of the result with the reporting laboratory and contact the Hospital and Health Services/facility Infection Control Practitioner for guidance.

Glossary of Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automatic Flexible Endoscope Reprocessor (AFER)</td>
<td>Machines designed to clean, high-level disinfect and rinse endoscopes</td>
<td>Infection Control in Endoscopy 3rd edition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References