Steps for Cleaning and Disinfection of Ultrasound Probes

Device Classification	Invasiveness	Required Process	Device Examples
Non-critical	Only touches intact skin	Low-level Disinfection (LLD)	Linear, curvi-linear, phased array u/s probes
Certain Semi-critical	Touches non-intact skin	Intermediate-level Disinfection	
Semi-critical	Touches mucous membranes or non-intact skin	High-level Disinfection (HLD)	Endocavitary u/s probes Bronchoscopes
Critical	Enters sterile tissue or vascular system	Sterilization	Surgical instruments Endovascular probes

Intact Skin

Non-critical: no blood or body fluid exposure anticipated
Examples: Abdominal u/s, pelvis u/s
Difficult IV access/Central venous access
Barrier Required:
Clean or sterile probe cover as applicable to procedure
Non-sterile or sterile u/s gel as applicable to procedure

Mucous Membrane or Non-intact Skin

Semi-critical: contact with mucous membranes

Examples: Transvaginal/Transrectal

Barrier Required: Clean probe cover and sterile u/s gel

Sterile Tissue or Cavity

*Critical: contact with sterile tissue

Examples: Wound assessment, aspirations, and drainages.

Barrier Required: Sterile probe cover and sterile u/s gel

* Ultrasound probes used during critical procedures that cannot withstand sterilization must be high-level disinfected.

Blood or body fluids Noted during procedure?

Yes

High-Level Disinfection (HLD)

Pre-clean at bedside
Remove probe cover and discard in regular waste container.
Remove u/s gel residue with soft cloth or running water.
Inspect probe and cable for damage.
Disconnect probe.

Use approved enzymatic sponge to clean entire length of transducer probe.

Use Oxivir TB wipe to clean entire length of transducer cable.

Dry with soft cloth.

Replace non-critical probes that are labeled as clean in the u/s probe holder.

Place probes used for semi-critical and critical procedures in a clear biohazard bag with 2 patient stickers; alert charge nurse.

High-Level Disinfection

In reprocessing room, follow manufacturer's guidelines for trophon.

Storage: Replace reprocessed probes that are labeled as clean in the u/s cabinet

No

Pre-clean at bedside

Remove probe cover and discard in regular waste container.
Remove u/s gel residue with soft cloth or running water.
Inspect probe and cable for damage.
Disconnect probe.

Cleaning

Clean and disinfect probe using low-level disinfection (LLD):
Wipe probe with Oxivir TB wipe.
Allow to air dry for one minute.

Storage: Replace reprocessed probes that are labeled as clean in the u/s probe holder.