

Care and Cleaning of Ultrasound Systems and Transducers

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1 Read This First

Ultrasound systems and transducers require proper care, cleaning, and handling. Reasonable care includes inspection, cleaning, and disinfection or sterilization, as necessary. These pages contain information and instructions to help you effectively clean, disinfect, and sterilize your Philips ultrasound system and transducers. Additionally, these instructions help avoid damage during cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization, which could void your warranty.

The information in this manual is applicable to the following ultrasound systems:

- Affiniti series
- ClearVue series
- CX30
- CX50
- EPIQ series
- HD5
- HD6
- HD7
- HD11 series
- HD15
- iE33
- iU22
- Sparq

Before you attempt to clean or disinfect a system or its transducers, read this manual and strictly observe all warnings and cautions. Pay special attention to the information in the “Safety” section.

For a list of disinfectants and cleaning solutions that are compatible with your Philips ultrasound system and transducers, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the "Transducer and System Care" website:

www.philips.com/transducercare

For a list of the transducers supported by your system, see your system *User Manual*, which contains information that is specific to your system and transducers.

For more information:

- In North America, call Philips at 800-722-9377.
- Outside North America, contact your local Philips representative.
- Visit the "Transducer and System Care" website:
www.philips.com/transducercare

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Warning Symbols

The system may use the following warning symbols. For additional symbols used on the system, see the "Safety" section in your system *User Manual*.

Warning Symbols

Symbol	Description
	Identifies a caution.
	Dangerous voltages: Appears adjacent to high-voltage terminals, indicating the presence of voltages greater than 1,000 Vac (600 Vac in the United States).
	Identifies ESD (electrostatic-discharge) sensitivity of a connector that is not tested as specified in IEC 60601-1-2. Do not touch exposed connector pins. Touching exposed pins can cause electrostatic discharge, which can damage the product.
	Indicates that the user should see the instructions for use for safety information.

Customer Comments

If you have questions about the user information, or you discover an error in the user information, in the USA, please call Philips at 800-722-9377; outside the USA, please call your local customer service representative.

Customer Service

Customer service representatives are available worldwide to answer questions and to provide maintenance and service. Please contact your local Philips representative for assistance. You can also contact the following office for referral to a customer service representative, or visit the Philips Healthcare "Contact Us" website:

www.healthcare.philips.com/main/about/officelocator/index.wpd

Philips Ultrasound Headquarters

22100 Bothell-Everett Highway, Bothell, WA 98021-8431, USA

800-722-9377

User Information Conventions

The user information for your product uses the following typographical conventions to assist you in finding and understanding information:

- All procedures are numbered, and all subprocedures are lettered. You must complete steps in the sequence they are presented to ensure success.
- Bulleted lists indicate general information about a particular function or procedure. They do not imply a sequential procedure.
- The left side of the system is to your left as you stand in front of the system, facing the system. The front of the system is nearest to you as you operate it.
- Transducers and pencil probes both are referred to as transducers, unless the distinction is important to the meaning of the text.

Information that is essential for the safe and effective use of your product appears throughout your user information as follows:

**WARNING**

Warnings highlight information vital to the safety of you, the operator, and the patient.

**CAUTION**

Cautions highlight ways that you could damage the product and consequently void your warranty or service contract or ways that you could lose patient or system data.

NOTE

Notes bring your attention to important information that will help you operate the product more effectively.

Supplies and Accessories

To order transducer covers, bite guards, biopsy guides, and other supplies and accessories, contact CIVCO Medical Solutions:

CIVCO Medical Solutions

102 First Street South, Kalona, IA 52247-9589

Telephone: 800-445-6741 (USA and Canada), +1 319-248-6757 (International)

Fax: 877-329-2482 (USA and Canada), +1 319-248-6660 (International)

E-mail: info@civco.com

Internet: www.civco.com

You can order ECG trunk cables, lead sets, and electrodes from any supplier. Order only ECG trunk cables, lead sets, and electrodes with Type BF or Type CF electrical isolation as specified in IEC 60601.

2 Safety

Read the information included in this section to ensure the safety of all persons operating and maintaining ultrasound equipment, all patients participating in exams, and to ensure the quality of the system and its accessories.

Safety information that applies only to a specific cleaning or disinfection task is included in the procedure for that task.

Warnings and Cautions

For maximum safety when using cleaning and disinfectant solutions, observe the following warnings and cautions:



WARNING

Disinfectants are recommended because of their chemical compatibility with product materials, not their biological effectiveness. For the biological effectiveness of a disinfectant, see the guidelines and recommendations of the disinfectant manufacturer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.



WARNING

The level of disinfection required for a device is dictated by the type of tissue it will contact during use and the type of transducer being used. Ensure that the disinfectant type is appropriate for the type of transducer and the transducer application. For information on the levels of disinfection requirements, see [“Transducer Care Methods” on page 27](#). Also, see the disinfectant label instructions and the recommendations of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

**WARNING**

When sterilizing a transducer, ensure that the sterilant solution's strength and duration of contact are appropriate for sterilization. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

**WARNING**

If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

**CAUTION**

Follow the recommendations of the disinfectant manufacturer.

**CAUTION**

Do not use abrasive cleaners, or acetone, MEK, paint thinner, or other strong solvents on the system, peripherals, or transducers.

**CAUTION**

Do not use Sani-Cloth AF3 or Super Sani-Cloth to disinfect the system.

**CAUTION**

On display screens, do not use glass cleaners or products containing bleach. Immediately wipe away disinfectants or cleaners to prevent residue buildup.

**CAUTION**

On display screens, use microfiber cloth; do not use paper towels.

**CAUTION**

System surfaces and transducers are resistant to ultrasound gel, alcohol, and disinfectants, but if you use those substances, you must wipe them off to prevent permanent damage.

**CAUTION**

Using non-recommended disinfectants, using incorrect solution strengths, or immersing a transducer deeper or longer than recommended can damage or discolor the transducer and voids the transducer warranty.

**CAUTION**

Use only liquid solutions to sterilize transducers. Using autoclave, gas (EtO), or other methods not approved by Philips will damage your transducer and void your warranty.

**CAUTION**

On non-TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the transducer housing and lens. On TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the control housing. Ensure that the solution is only 70% alcohol or less. Do not wipe any other part of a transducer with isopropyl alcohol (including cables or strain reliefs), as it can damage those parts of the transducer. This damage is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

Latex Product Alert

Philips ultrasound systems and transducers do not contain natural rubber latex that contacts humans.



WARNING

Transducer covers can contain natural rubber latex, which may cause allergic reactions in some individuals.



WARNING

The M2203A bite guard strap contains natural rubber latex, which may cause allergic reactions.

FDA Medical Alert on Latex

March 29, 1991, Allergic Reactions to Latex-Containing Medical Devices

Because of reports of severe allergic reactions to medical devices containing latex (natural rubber), the FDA is advising health care professionals to identify their latex sensitive patients and be prepared to treat allergic reactions promptly. Patient reactions to latex have ranged from contact urticaria to systemic anaphylaxis. Latex is a component of many medical devices, including surgical and examination gloves, catheters, intubation tubes, anesthesia masks, and dental dams.

Reports to the FDA of allergic reactions to latex-containing medical devices have increased lately. One brand of latex cuffed enema tips was recently recalled after several patients died as a result of anaphylactoid reactions during barium enema procedures. More reports of latex sensitivity have also been found in the medical literature. Repeated exposure to latex both in medical devices and in other consumer products may be part of the reason that the prevalence of latex sensitivity appears to be increasing. For example, it has been reported that 6% to 7% of surgical personnel and 18% to 40% of spina bifida patients are latex sensitive.

Proteins in the latex itself appear to be the primary source of the allergic reactions. Although it is not now known how much protein is likely to cause severe reactions, the FDA is working with manufacturers of latex-containing medical devices to make protein levels in their products as low as possible.

FDA's recommendations to health professionals in regard to this problem are as follows:

- When taking general histories of patients, include questions about latex sensitivity. For surgical and radiology patients, spina bifida patients and health care workers, this recommendation is especially important. Questions about itching, rash or wheezing after wearing latex gloves or inflating a toy balloon may be useful. Patients with positive histories should have their charts flagged.
- If latex sensitivity is suspected, consider using devices made with alternative materials, such as plastic. For example, a health professional could wear a non-latex glove over the latex glove if the patient is sensitive. If both the health professional and the patient are sensitive, a latex middle glove could be used. (Latex gloves labeled "Hypoallergenic" may not always prevent adverse reactions.)
- Whenever latex-containing medical devices are used, especially when the latex comes in contact with mucous membranes, be alert to the possibility of an allergic reaction.
- If an allergic reaction does occur and latex is suspected, advise the patient of a possible latex sensitivity and consider an immunologic evaluation.
- Advise the patient to tell health professionals and emergency personnel about any known latex sensitivity before undergoing medical procedures. Consider advising patients with severe latex sensitivity to wear a medical identification bracelet.

The FDA is asking health professionals to report incidents of adverse reactions to latex or other materials used in medical devices. (See the October 1990 FDA Drug Bulletin.) To report an incident, contact the FDA Problem Reporting Program, MedWatch, at 1-800-332-1088, or on the Internet:

www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/

For a single copy of a reference list on latex sensitivity, write to: LATEX, FDA, HFZ-220, Rockville, MD 20857.

Infection Control

Issues related to infection control affect the operator and the patient. Follow the infection-control procedures established in your facility for the protection of both the staff and the patient.

Handling Contaminated Transducers

The primary area of concern is the handling of transducers that have contacted infected patients. Always wear gloves when you handle transducers used in TEE, endocavity, intraoperative, and biopsy procedures that have not been previously disinfected. For information on cleaning and disinfecting transducers, see the “[Transducer Care](#)” section.

Removing Blood and Infectious Material from the System

If the system becomes contaminated internally with bodily fluids carrying pathogens, you must immediately notify your Philips service representative. Components inside the system cannot be disinfected. In that case, the system must be disposed of as biohazardous material in accordance with local or federal laws.



CAUTION

On non-TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the transducer housing and lens. On TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the control housing. Ensure that the solution is only 70% alcohol or less. Do not wipe any other part of a transducer with isopropyl alcohol (including cables or strain reliefs), as it can damage those parts of the transducer. This damage is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

Use a gauze pad moistened with soap and water to remove blood on the system and the transducer connectors and cables. Then dry the equipment with a soft cloth to prevent corrosion. You can use a 70% solution of isopropyl alcohol only on certain parts of the system

and certain parts of some transducers. Additional cleaning agents are available. For more information, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers*. For more information about removing blood and other infectious material from the system, see the “[System Cleaning and Maintenance](#)” section.

ECG Cables and Lead Sets

For information on cleaning ECG cables and lead sets, see the “[System Cleaning and Maintenance](#)” section.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy



WARNING

If a sterile transducer cover becomes compromised during an intraoperative application involving a patient with transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, follow the guidelines of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and this document from the World Health Organization: WHO/CDS/ APH/2000/3, WHO Infection Control Guidelines for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies. The transducers for your system cannot be decontaminated using a heat process.

Transducer Covers

For procedures for using transducer covers, see the instructions provided with the covers.

**WARNING**

Latex and talc are commonly used in sheaths marketed to help with infection control in transesophageal, endocavity, and intraoperative imaging applications and during biopsies. Examine the packaging to confirm latex and talc content. Studies have shown that patients can experience allergic reactions with natural rubber latex. See the FDA Medical Alert, March 29, 1991, reprinted in [“FDA Medical Alert on Latex” on page 14](#).

**WARNING**

In intraoperative applications, sterilized transducers should be used with sterile gel and a sterile transducer cover.

**WARNING**

Inspect transducer covers before and after use.

**WARNING**

Do not apply the transducer cover until you are ready to perform the procedure.

**WARNING**

Sterile transducer covers are disposable and must not be reused.

3 System Cleaning and Maintenance

Maintenance should be performed regularly and as needed.

Because the system is a piece of medical equipment that contains several circuit boards, extensive service diagnostics, and complex operating software, Philips recommends that only trained personnel service the system.

- It is important to clean and maintain the ultrasound system and peripherals. Thorough cleaning is particularly important for pieces of peripheral equipment, because they contain electromechanical devices. If exposed to constant and excessive environmental dust and humidity, these devices will suffer in both performance and reliability.
- It is essential to clean the transducers used with your ultrasound system. The cleaning procedures vary for the different types of transducers and their uses. For detailed instructions on how to clean and maintain each type of transducer used with the system, see the [“Transducer Care”](#) section.

Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for System Surfaces

The compatibility of disinfection and cleaning solutions varies depending on the item on which they are used. The products in the following table are compatible with these system surfaces:

- External plastic and painted surfaces of system and cart
- System control panel
- ECG trunk cables, leads, and electrodes
- Touch screens and monitor screens
- Easy-clip transducer cable managers

Cleaning Solutions for All Surfaces	Cleaning Solutions for Touch Screens and Monitor Screens	Disinfectants for System Surfaces and Touch Screens
Mild soap solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild soap solution • Cleaners designed for LCDs • Purified water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% isopropyl alcohol (IPA) • Opti-Cide 3 (QUAT/IPA based) • Oxivir Tb (accelerated hydrogen peroxide based) • PI-Spray II (QUAT based) • Protex (compatible with EPIQ series and Affiniti series systems only) • Sani-Cloth HB (QUAT based) • Sani-Cloth Plus (QUAT/IPA based)

**CAUTION**

Do not use abrasive cleaners, or acetone, MEK, paint thinner, or other strong solvents on the system, peripherals, or transducers.

**CAUTION**

Do not use Sani-Cloth AF3 or Super Sani-Cloth to disinfect the system.

**CAUTION**

On display screens, do not use glass cleaners or products containing bleach. Immediately wipe away disinfectants or cleaners to prevent residue buildup.

**CAUTION**

System surfaces and transducers are resistant to ultrasound gel, alcohol, and disinfectants, but if you use those substances, you must wipe them off to prevent permanent damage.

For a more information about disinfectants for the system and transducers, see the [“Disinfectants for Systems and Transducers”](#) section.

For instructions on cleaning and disinfecting ultrasound systems and transducers, see the [“Transducer Care”](#) section or the "Transducer and System Care" website:

www.philips.com/transducercare

Cleaning and Disinfecting the System and ECG Equipment

The system control panel and other outer surfaces are most likely to be affected by liquid spills and other materials such as excessive amounts of gel. These materials may seep into electrical components under the panel and cause intermittent failures. During preventive maintenance, look for potential problems including loose knobs and worn controls.

**WARNING**

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

**WARNING**

Before performing any system maintenance or cleaning, always turn off the system and disconnect it from the power source.

**CAUTION**

Ensure that the system brakes are locked before performing maintenance or cleaning.

**CAUTION**

Use only compatible cleaning solutions and disinfectants on system surfaces. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

**CAUTION**

Do not use abrasive cleaners, or acetone, MEK, paint thinner, or other strong solvents on the system, peripherals, or transducers.

**CAUTION**

On display screens, do not use cleaners containing bleach. It may damage the surfaces.

**CAUTION**

On display screens, use microfiber cloth; do not use paper towels.

**CAUTION**

Do not touch display screens with sharp objects. Take care not to scratch the face of display screens while cleaning.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning the system control panel, display screens, and keyboard, take care not to get any solution inside the housings. Do not spill or spray liquid on the controls, into the system cabinet, or into the transducer receptacles.

**CAUTION**

Do not spray disinfectant directly on system surfaces. When wiping, do not allow disinfectant to pool or run on system surfaces. In either case, disinfectant may leak into the system, damaging the system and voiding the warranty. Wipe only with a cloth or applicator that is lightly dampened.

**CAUTION**

If you use an isopropyl alcohol solution for disinfection, ensure that the solution is only 70% alcohol or less. Solutions of more than 70% alcohol can cause product damage.

Cleaning the System and ECG Equipment

1. Before cleaning, turn off the system, disconnect the power cord from the power source, and ensure that the system brakes are locked.
2. To clean display screens:
 - a. Remove dust with a soft, lint-free cloth. Philips recommends using a microfiber cloth.
 - b. Use a liquid screen cleaner specifically designed for LCDs. Spray the liquid onto the cleaning cloth and wipe the screen clean. You can also use pre-moistened screen wipes.
 - c. Dry the screen with a soft, lint-free cloth.
3. To clean the control panel, remove any solid matter around the keys or the controls with a cotton swab or toothpick to ensure that solids are not pushed into the cabinet. Wipe with a soft cloth moistened with soap and water.

4. Wipe the remaining external surfaces of the system and the cart with a soft cloth moistened with soap and water:
 - Painted and plastic surfaces
 - ECG trunk cables, leads, and electrodes

You may use a 70% isopropyl alcohol solution for stubborn stains or inks, and then wash with soap and water.

5. Remove any residue with a cloth moistened with purified water.
6. Dry the equipment to prevent potential corrosion.

If the equipment has come in contact with blood or infectious material, see [“Disinfecting System Surfaces and ECG Equipment” on page 24](#).

Disinfecting System Surfaces and ECG Equipment

Before disinfecting the system and ECG equipment, read [“Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for System Surfaces” on page 19](#).

1. Before cleaning and disinfecting, turn off the system, disconnect the power cord from the power source, and ensure that the system brakes are locked.
2. Clean the system according to the procedures in [“Cleaning the System and ECG Equipment” on page 23](#).
3. Choose the disinfection solution compatible with your system and follow the label instructions for preparation, temperature, and solution strength. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.
4. Wipe system surfaces with the disinfectant, following disinfectant label instructions for wipe durations, solution strengths, and disinfectant contact duration. Ensure the solution strength and duration of contact are appropriate for the intended clinical application.
5. Dry the equipment to prevent potential corrosion.

Cleaning the Trackball

Cleaning the trackball regularly prolongs its useful life and prevents service calls.

1. With your fingers, unscrew the ring around the trackball.
2. Lift the trackball out of the mounting area.
3. Clean the trackball and the mounting area with a lint-free cloth or a small brush.
4. Place the ball back on the mounting area.
5. With your fingers, screw the ring back on.

Cleaning the System Air Filter

The system air filter should be inspected weekly and cleaned as needed. If you decide to clean the air filter with soap and water, you may want to install a spare filter while the other filter is drying. Additional air filters can be ordered from Philips.



WARNING

Before performing any system maintenance or cleaning, always turn off the system and disconnect it from the power source.



CAUTION

Turn off power before you remove the air filter. Do not turn on power without the air filter installed.



CAUTION

Ensure that the air filter is dry before installing it. Installing a wet or damp air filter can damage the system.

**CAUTION**

Ensure that the system brakes are locked before you clean the air filter.

1. Locate the air filter handle.
2. Pull the air filter handle straight out, until the filter is completely removed from the system.
3. Inspect the filter. Depending on the condition of the air filter, vacuum or rinse the filter with water to clean it. If the filter is worn out, or cannot be cleaned, replace it with a spare.
4. To reinstall the filter, slide the filter into place.
5. For additional system-specific procedures, such as resetting the filter maintenance status, see your system *User Manual*.

4 Transducer Care

All Philips transducers require proper care, cleaning, and handling. This section contains information and instructions to help you effectively clean, disinfect, and sterilize the transducers that are compatible with your Philips ultrasound system. Additionally, these instructions help avoid damage during cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization, which could void your warranty.

Reasonable care includes inspection, cleaning, and disinfection or sterilization, as necessary. Transducers must be cleaned after each use. Inspect all parts of the transducer carefully before each use. Check for cracks or other damage that jeopardizes the integrity of the transducer. Report any damage to your Philips representative, and discontinue use of the transducer.

For information on the gels that are compatible with your system's transducers, see [“Ultrasound Transmission Gels” on page 62](#).

Transducer Care Methods

To choose an appropriate care method for your transducer, you first must determine the classification of the transducer, based on its use. The care method for your transducer determines the appropriate disinfectant for your transducer. For details about compatible disinfectants, see the [“Disinfectants for Systems and Transducers”](#) section. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions when using disinfectants and cleaning solutions.

Care Methods by Transducer Type

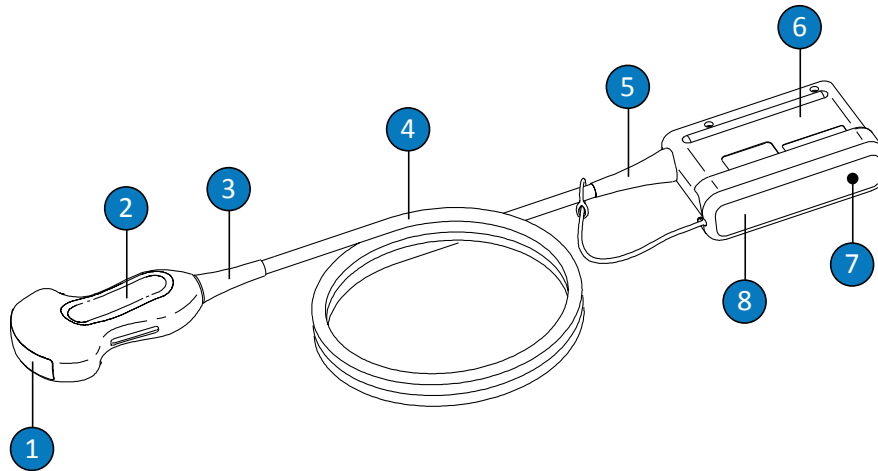
Non-TEE Transducer Use	Example	Classification	Care Method
Contacts intact skin	Curved, linear, xMATRIX, and sector transducers	Noncritical	Low-level disinfection (see “Low-Level Disinfecting Non-TEE Transducers” on page 39)

Non-TEE Transducer Use	Example	Classification	Care Method
Contacts mucous membranes	Endocavity	Semi-critical	High-level disinfection (see “High-Level Disinfecting Non-TEE Transducers” on page 40) ¹
Enters otherwise sterile tissue	Intraoperative and Laparoscopic	Critical	Sterilization (see “High-Level Disinfecting Non-TEE Transducers” on page 40 or “Sterilizing Non-TEE Transducers” on page 43)
TEE Transducer Use	Example	Classification	Care Method
Contacts mucous membranes	Transesophageal (TEE)	Semi-critical	High-level disinfection or sterilization (see “High-Level Disinfecting TEE Transducers” on page 55 or “Sterilizing TEE Transducers” on page 59) ¹

1. High-level disinfection and the use of a sterile gel and a transducer cover, as described in the instructions provided with the transducer cover, is an accepted method of infection control for ultrasound transducers. See the FDA Guidance document “Information for Manufacturers Seeking Marketing Clearance of Diagnostic Ultrasound Systems and Transducers,” updated September 9, 2008, at the following website:
www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM070911.pdf

Non-TEE Transducer Care

The following topics explain how to clean, disinfect, and sterilize non-TEE transducers. To determine the appropriate care method for your transducer, see [“Transducer Care Methods”](#) on page 27. The following figure identifies the components of non-TEE transducers.



Non-TEE Transducer Components

1	Transducer lens
2	Transducer housing
3	Transducer strain relief
4	Cable
5	Connector strain relief
6	Connector housing
7	Connector electrical contacts (under cover)
8	Connector cover (optional)

Warnings and Cautions for Non-TEE Transducers

Observe these warnings and cautions during all cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization procedures, and when using disinfectants. More specific warnings and cautions are included within the care and cleaning procedures and on the labels of the cleaning or disinfection solutions.



WARNING

Transducers must be cleaned after each use. Cleaning the transducer is an essential step before effective disinfection or sterilization. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when using disinfectants.



WARNING

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.



WARNING

Sterile transducer covers with sterile ultrasound transmission gel are required for intraoperative and biopsy procedures. Protective covers are recommended for transrectal and intravaginal procedures; in China and Japan, the covers are mandatory. Philips recommends the use of qualified covers.



WARNING

Sterile transducer covers are disposable and must not be reused.

**WARNING**

In intraoperative applications (other than TEE or endoscopy), transducers used with sterile gel and sterile transducer covers may use either the high-level disinfection or sterilization care method.

**WARNING**

Disinfectants are recommended because of their chemical compatibility with product materials, not their biological effectiveness. For the biological effectiveness of a disinfectant, see the guidelines and recommendations of the disinfectant manufacturer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

**WARNING**

The level of disinfection required for a device is dictated by the type of tissue it will contact during use and the type of transducer being used. Ensure that the disinfectant type is appropriate for the type of transducer and the transducer application. For information on the levels of disinfection requirements, see [“Transducer Care Methods” on page 27](#). Also, see the disinfectant label instructions and the recommendations of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

**WARNING**

When sterilizing a transducer, ensure that the sterilant solution's strength and duration of contact are appropriate for sterilization. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

**WARNING**

If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

**WARNING**

Follow the recommendations of the disinfectant manufacturer.

**CAUTION**

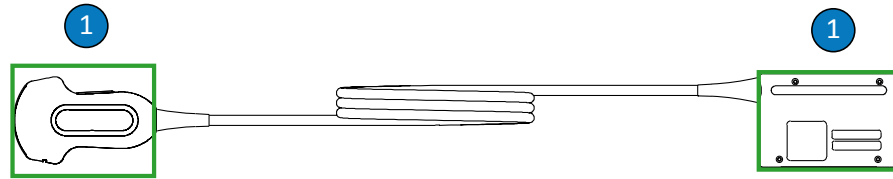
Using non-recommended disinfectants, using incorrect solution strengths, or immersing a transducer deeper or longer than recommended can damage or discolor the transducer and voids the transducer warranty.

**CAUTION**

Use only liquid solutions to sterilize transducers. Using autoclave, gas (EtO), or other methods not approved by Philips will damage your transducer and void your warranty.

**CAUTION**

On non-TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the transducer housing and lens or acoustic window. Ensure that the solution is only 70% alcohol or less. Do not wipe any other part of a transducer with isopropyl alcohol (including cables or strain reliefs), as it can damage those parts of the transducer. This damage is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.



Alcohol-Compatible Non-TEE Transducer Parts

-
- 1 The only parts that may be wiped with 70% isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and transducer housing and lens. Do not allow fluid to enter any unsealed area of the transducer.
-



CAUTION

When using an enzymatic cleaner, be sure to use the proper concentration and rinse thoroughly.



CAUTION

Do not use bleach on the transducer and shaft.



CAUTION

Attempting to clean or disinfect a transducer, cable, or connector housing by using a method other than the procedures here can damage the device and voids the warranty.

**CAUTION**

Do not allow sharp objects, such as scissors, scalpels, or cauterizing knives, to touch transducers or cables.

**CAUTION**

When handling a transducer, do not bump the transducer on hard surfaces.

**CAUTION**

Do not use a surgeon's brush when cleaning transducers. Even the use of soft brushes can damage transducers.

**CAUTION**

Do not use a brush on the connector housing label.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning a transducer, do not use paper products or abrasive products. They damage the soft lens or the acoustic window of the transducer.

**CAUTION**

During cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization, orient the parts of the transducer, connector housing, or cable that must remain dry higher than the wet parts, until all parts are dry. This helps keep liquid from entering unsealed areas of the transducer.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

**CAUTION**

Never sterilize the transducer with autoclave, gamma-radiation, gas, steam, or heat sterilization techniques. Severe damage will result. Avoidable transducer damage is not covered by the warranty or service contract.

**CAUTION**

Do not soak the transducer for extended periods of time. Limit the time and depth that transducers are soaked in disinfectant solution to the minimum time recommended by the disinfectant manufacturer.

**CAUTION**

Before storing transducers, ensure that they are thoroughly dry. If it is necessary to dry the transducer lens or the acoustic window after cleaning, use a soft cloth and a blotting motion, instead of a wiping motion.

Minimizing the Effects of Residual Disinfectant

If you use an OPA-based disinfectant, residual solution may remain on your transducers if you do not carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.

To minimize the effects from residual OPA, or any other disinfectant, Philips recommends the following:

- Follow the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions very carefully. For example, the manufacturer of Cidex OPA recommends rinsing transducers by immersing them three times in fresh water.
- Limit the time that transducers are soaked in the disinfectant solution to the minimum time recommended by the disinfectant manufacturer. For example, the manufacturer of Cidex OPA recommends a minimum of 12 minutes.

Cleaning Non-TEE Transducers, Cables, and Connectors

These general cleaning instructions must be followed for all non-TEE transducers, cables, and connectors.

Before cleaning a transducer, read the [“Safety”](#) section and [“Warnings and Cautions for Non-TEE Transducers”](#) on page 30.

After cleaning, you must disinfect or sterilize non-TEE transducers by following the appropriate procedures:

- [“Low-Level Disinfecting Non-TEE Transducers”](#) on page 39
- [“High-Level Disinfecting Non-TEE Transducers”](#) on page 40
- [“Sterilizing Non-TEE Transducers”](#) on page 43



WARNING

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

1. After every patient study, use a moist cloth to remove the ultrasound transmission gel from the transducer.
2. Disconnect the transducer from the system, and remove any accessories attached to or covering the transducer. Push the connector cover, if available, onto the connector to protect against fluid splashing onto the contacts.
3. Use a soft cloth lightly dampened in a mild soap or an enzymatic cleaner (in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions) to remove any particulate matter or body fluids that remain on the transducer, cable, or connector. Enzymatic cleaners are generically compatible.

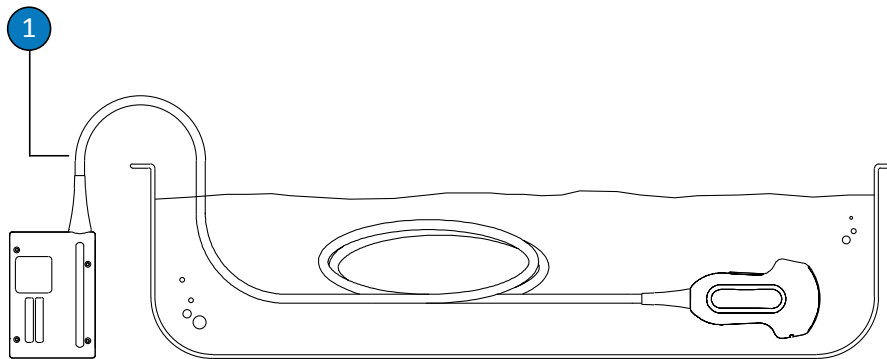
When cleaning the connector, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking-lever shaft. When wiping or spraying the connector, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces of the connector housing. You may use a soft-bristled brush to clean *only* the metal surfaces of a connector.

4. When cleaning the lens, use a blotting motion rather than a wiping motion.
5. To remove remaining particulate and cleaning residue, use cleaning wipes according to the manufacturers' instructions, or rinse thoroughly with water up to the immersion point shown in the figure following this procedure. Do not immerse the connector, connector strain relief, or cable that is within 5 cm (2 in) of the connector strain relief. (Up to 5 cm from the strain relief is the maximum allowable immersion point of the cable—you are not required to immerse to that point if it is unnecessary.)

NOTE

If you use cleaning wipes, it may be unnecessary to rinse the transducer with water. Always follow the product label recommendations.

6. If necessary, wipe the transducer with a dry cloth. To dry the lens or acoustic window, use a soft cloth and a blotting motion instead of a wiping motion.
7. Examine the device and cable for damage such as cracks, splitting, sharp edges, or projections. If damage is evident, discontinue use of the device and contact your Philips representative.



Immersion Point for Non-TEE Transducers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Do not immerse beyond this point, 5 cm (2 in) from the strain relief; this is the maximum allowable immersion of the cable—you are not required to immerse to this point if it is unnecessary. |
|---|--|

Low-Level Disinfecting Non-TEE Transducers

Low-level disinfection of non-TEE transducers uses the spray or wipe method, with a low- or intermediate-level disinfectant. Before performing this procedure, read the warnings and cautions in the “[Safety](#)” section and “[Warnings and Cautions for Non-TEE Transducers](#)” on page 30.



WARNING

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.



CAUTION

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

NOTE

Transducers can be disinfected using the wipe method only if the product labeling of the compatible disinfectant that you are using indicates it can be used with a wipe method.

1. Clean the transducer and cable according to the procedures in “[Cleaning Non-TEE Transducers, Cables, and Connectors](#)” on page 36. Observe all warnings and cautions.

2. After cleaning, choose the low- or intermediate-level disinfection solutions compatible with your transducer, cable, and connector. For a list of disinfectants compatible with your transducer, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the "Transducer and System Care" website:

www.philips.com/transducercare

Follow the label instructions for preparation, temperature, solution strength and duration of contact. Ensure that the solution strength and duration of contact are appropriate for the intended clinical use of the device. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

3. Wipe or spray the transducer, cable, strain relief, and connector with the disinfectant, following disinfectant label instructions for temperature, wipe durations, and duration of disinfectant contact. Ensure that the disinfectant solution does not enter the device or the connector.

When disinfecting the connector housing, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces; do not allow any type of fluid to enter through the strain relief, electrical contacts, or areas surrounding the locking-lever shaft.

4. Air dry or towel dry with a soft sterile cloth according to the instructions on the disinfectant label.
5. Examine the transducer for damage, such as cracks, splitting, fluid leaks, or sharp edges or projections. If damage is evident, discontinue use of the transducer and contact your Philips representative.

High-Level Disinfecting Non-TEE Transducers

High-level disinfection of non-TEE transducers uses the immersion method. Before performing this procedure, read the warnings and cautions in the “[Safety](#)” section and “[Warnings and Cautions for Non-TEE Transducers](#)” on page 30, and observe the following precautions.

**WARNING**

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

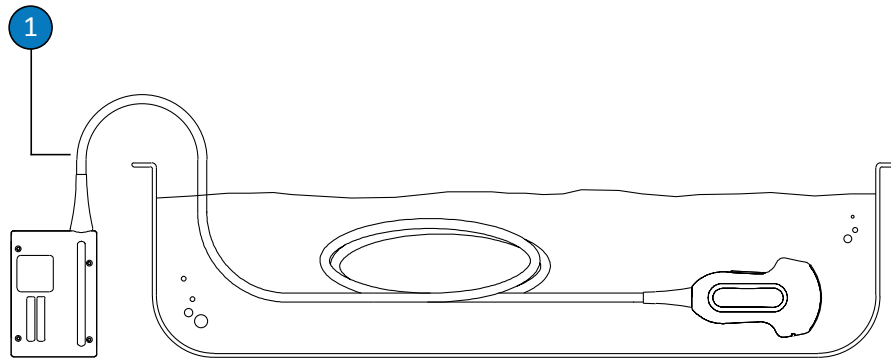
**CAUTION**

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

1. Clean the transducer and cable according to the procedures in [“Cleaning Non-TEE Transducers, Cables, and Connectors”](#) on page 36. Observe all warnings and cautions.
2. After cleaning, choose the high-level disinfection solutions that are compatible with your transducer. For a list of disinfectants compatible with your transducer, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the "Transducer and System Care" website:
www.philips.com/transducercare
Follow the label instructions for preparation, temperature, solution strength and duration of contact. Ensure that the solution strength and duration of contact are appropriate for the intended clinical use of the device. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.
3. Using an appropriate disinfectant for the cable and connector, wipe or spray the cable, strain relief, and connector, following disinfectant label instructions for temperature, wipe durations, solution strengths, and duration of disinfectant contact. Ensure that the disinfectant solution does not enter the device or the connector.

When disinfecting the connector housing, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces; do not allow any type of fluid to enter through the strain relief, electrical contacts, or areas surrounding the locking-lever shaft.

4. Immerse the transducer into the appropriate disinfectant for your transducer as shown in the figure. Do not immerse the connector, connector strain relief, or cable within 5 cm (2 in) of the connector strain relief. (Up to 5 cm from the strain relief is the maximum allowable immersion point of the cable—you are not required to immerse to that point if it is unnecessary.)
5. Follow the instructions on the disinfectant label for the duration of transducer immersion. Do not immerse transducers longer than the minimum time needed for your level of disinfection.
6. Using the instructions on the disinfectant label, rinse the transducer up to the point of immersion. Do not immerse the connector, connector strain relief, or cable within 5 cm (2 in) of the connector strain relief. (Up to 5 cm from the strain relief is the maximum allowable immersion point of the cable—you are not required to immerse to that point if it is unnecessary.)
7. Air dry or towel dry with a soft sterile cloth according to the instructions on the disinfectant label.
8. Examine the transducer for damage, such as cracks, splitting, fluid leaks, or sharp edges or projections. If damage is evident, discontinue use of the transducer and contact your Philips representative.



Immersion Point for Non-TEE Transducers

- 1 Do not immerse beyond this point, 5 cm (2 in) from the strain relief; this is the maximum allowable immersion of the cable—you are not required to immerse to this point if it is unnecessary.

Sterilizing Non-TEE Transducers

Sterilization is required if the transducer enters otherwise sterile tissue without a sterile cover. If you use a sterile cover, sterilization is still recommended, but high-level disinfection is acceptable. The main difference between sterilization and high-level disinfection is the length of time that the transducer is immersed.

To determine if your transducer requires sterilization or high-level disinfection, see [“Transducer Care Methods” on page 27](#).

Before performing this procedure, read the warnings and cautions in the [“Safety”](#) section and [“Warnings and Cautions for Non-TEE Transducers” on page 30](#).



WARNING

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

1. Clean the transducer and cable according to the procedures in [“Cleaning Non-TEE Transducers, Cables, and Connectors”](#) on page 36.

2. After cleaning, choose the high-level disinfection or sterilization solutions that are compatible with your transducer. For a list of disinfectants compatible with your transducer, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the "Transducer and System Care" website:

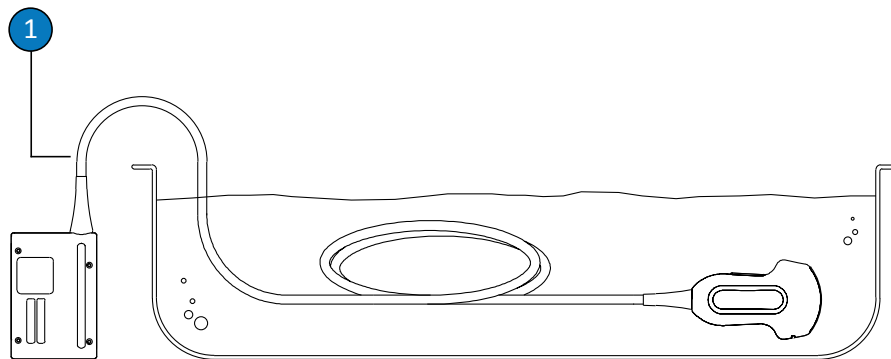
www.philips.com/transducercare

Follow the label instructions for preparation, temperature, solution strength and duration of contact. Ensure that the solution strength and duration of contact are appropriate for the intended clinical use of the device. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

3. Using an appropriate disinfectant for the cable and connector, wipe or spray the cable, strain relief, and connector, following disinfectant label instructions for temperature, wipe durations, solution strengths, and duration of disinfectant contact. Ensure that the disinfectant solution does not enter the device or the connector.

When disinfecting the connector housing, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces; do not allow any type of fluid to enter through the strain relief, electrical contacts, or areas surrounding the locking-lever shaft.

4. Immerse the transducer in the sterilization solution as shown in the figure. Do not immerse the connector, connector strain relief, or cable within 5 cm (2 in) of the connector strain relief. (Up to 5 cm from the strain relief is the maximum allowable immersion point of the cable—you are not required to immerse to that point if it is unnecessary.)
5. Follow the instructions on the sterilization label for the duration of transducer immersion required for sterilization.
6. Remove the transducer from the sterilization solution after the recommended sterilization time has elapsed.
7. Using the instructions on the sterilization label, rinse the transducer in sterile water up to the point of immersion. Do not immerse the connector, connector strain relief, or cable within 5 cm (2 in) of the connector strain relief. (Up to 5 cm from the strain relief is the maximum allowable immersion point of the cable—you are not required to immerse to that point if it is unnecessary.)
8. Air dry or towel dry with a soft sterile cloth according to the instructions on the sterilization solution label.
9. Examine the transducer for damage, such as cracks, splitting, fluid leaks, or sharp edges or projections. If damage is evident, discontinue use of the transducer, and contact your Philips representative.



Immersion Point for Non-TEE Transducers

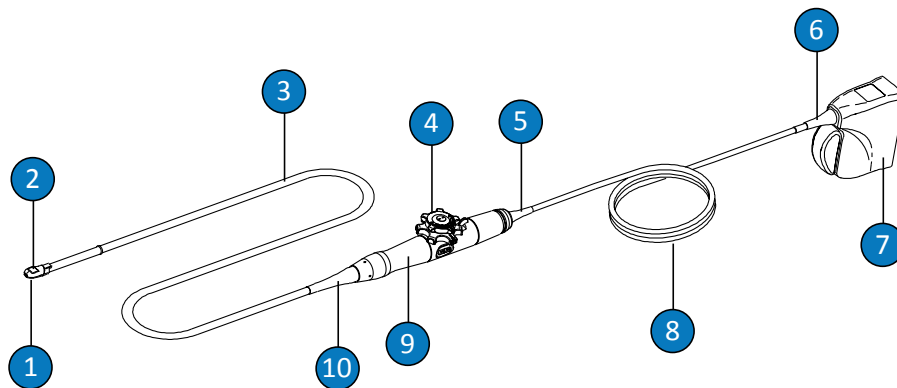
-
- Do not immerse beyond this point, 5 cm (2 in) from the strain relief; this is the maximum allowable immersion of the cable—you are not required to immerse to this point if it is unnecessary.
-

TEE Transducer Care

The following topics explain how to clean, disinfect, and sterilize transesophageal echocardiographic (TEE) transducers. To determine the appropriate care method for your transducer, see [“Transducer Care Methods” on page 27](#).

Upon receiving your new transducer, disinfect it before performing the first study. Clean and disinfect the transducer immediately after each use to protect patients and personnel from pathogens. Establish and clearly post a cleaning procedure that includes the steps described in this section.

The following figure identifies the components of a TEE Transducer.



TEE Transducer Components

1	Distal tip
2	Transducer lens or acoustic window
3	Flexible shaft

4	Transducer controls
5	Control-housing (handle) strain relief
6	Connector strain relief
7	Connector housing
8	Cable
9	Control housing (handle)
10	Control-housing (handle) strain relief

Warnings and Cautions for TEE Transducers

Observe these warnings and cautions when cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing TEE transducers, and when using disinfectants. More specific warnings and cautions are included within the care and cleaning procedures and on the labels of the cleaning or disinfection solutions.



WARNING

Transducers must be cleaned after each use. Cleaning the transducer is an essential step before effective disinfection or sterilization. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when using disinfectants.



WARNING

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

**WARNING**

Sterile transducer covers with sterile ultrasound transmission gel are required for intraoperative and biopsy procedures. Protective covers are recommended for transrectal and intravaginal procedures; in China and Japan, the covers are mandatory. Philips recommends the use of qualified covers.

**WARNING**

Sterile transducer covers are disposable and must not be reused.

**WARNING**

Bite guards are mandatory for TEE transducers.

**WARNING**

Disinfectants are recommended because of their chemical compatibility with product materials, not their biological effectiveness. For the biological effectiveness of a disinfectant, see the guidelines and recommendations of the disinfectant manufacturer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

**WARNING**

The level of disinfection required for a device is dictated by the type of tissue it will contact during use and the type of transducer being used. Ensure that the disinfectant type is appropriate for the type of transducer and the transducer application. For information on the levels of disinfection requirements, see [“Transducer Care Methods” on page 27](#). Also, see the disinfectant label instructions and the recommendations of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

**WARNING**

When sterilizing a transducer, ensure that the sterilant solution's strength and duration of contact are appropriate for sterilization. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

**WARNING**

If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

**CAUTION**

Follow the recommendations of the disinfectant manufacturer.

**CAUTION**

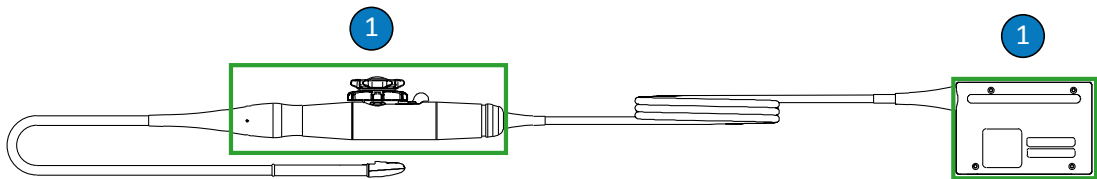
Using non-recommended disinfectants, using incorrect solution strengths, or immersing a transducer deeper or longer than recommended can damage or discolor the transducer and voids the transducer warranty.

**CAUTION**

Use only liquid solutions to sterilize transducers. Using autoclave, gas (EtO), or other methods not approved by Philips will damage your transducer and void your warranty.

**CAUTION**

On TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the control housing. Ensure that the solution is only 70% alcohol or less. Do not wipe any other part of a transducer with isopropyl alcohol (including cables or strain reliefs), as it can damage those parts of the transducer. This damage is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.



Alcohol-Compatible TEE Transducer Parts

-
- 1 The only parts that may be wiped with 70% isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and control housing. Do not allow fluid to enter any unsealed area of the transducer.
-

**CAUTION**

When using an enzymatic cleaner, be sure to use the proper concentration and rinse thoroughly.

**CAUTION**

Do not use bleach on the transducer and shaft.

**CAUTION**

Attempting to clean or disinfect a transducer, cable, or connector housing by using a method other than the procedures here can damage the device and voids the warranty.

**CAUTION**

Do not allow sharp objects, such as scissors, scalpels, or cauterizing knives, to touch transducers or cables.

**CAUTION**

When handling a transducer, do not bump the transducer on hard surfaces.

**CAUTION**

On TEE transducers, do not crimp the flexible shaft or cable. Do not bend the shaft into a circle with a diameter of less than 0.3 m (1 ft).

**CAUTION**

Do not use a surgeon's brush when cleaning transducers. Even the use of soft brushes can damage transducers.

**CAUTION**

Do not use a brush on the connector housing label.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning a transducer, do not use paper products or abrasive products. They damage the soft lens or the acoustic window of the transducer.

**CAUTION**

During cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization, orient the parts of the transducer, connector housing, or cable that must remain dry higher than the wet parts, until all parts are dry. This helps keep liquid from entering unsealed areas of the transducer.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

**CAUTION**

Never sterilize the transducer with autoclave, gamma-radiation, gas, steam, or heat sterilization techniques. Severe damage will result. Avoidable transducer damage is not covered by the warranty or service contract.

**CAUTION**

Do not soak the transducer for extended periods of time. Limit the time and depth that transducers are soaked in disinfectant solution to the minimum time recommended by the disinfectant manufacturer.

**CAUTION**

The transducer steering mechanism for TEE transducers is unsealed. If disinfectant or other fluid enters the steering mechanism, it corrodes the gears and electrical connections. Avoidable transducer damage is not covered by the warranty or service contract.

**CAUTION**

Do not rinse or immerse the TEE transducer handle, steering mechanism, cable, connector, or strain reliefs.

**CAUTION**

Before storing TEE transducers, ensure that they are thoroughly dry. If it is necessary to dry the transducer lens or the acoustic window after cleaning, use a soft cloth and a blotting motion, instead of a wiping motion.

Minimizing the Effects of Residual Disinfectant

If you use an OPA-based disinfectant, residual solution may remain on your transducers if you do not carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.

**WARNING**

Residual OPA on TEE transducers may cause temporary staining of the mouth and lip area and irritation or chemical burns of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and stomach.

To minimize the effects from residual OPA, or any other disinfectant, Philips recommends the following:

- Follow the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions very carefully. For example, the manufacturer of Cidex OPA recommends rinsing transducers by immersing them three times in fresh water.
- Limit the time that transducers are soaked in the disinfectant solution to the minimum time recommended by the disinfectant manufacturer. For example, the manufacturer of Cidex OPA recommends a minimum of 12 minutes.

S7-3t and S8-3t Cautions

Because of their small size, the S7-3t and S8-3t transducers are very delicate electronic instruments. To avoid damaging the transducers, observe the following cautions.

**CAUTION**

When wiping the distal tip of the S7-3t or the S8-3t transducer, never apply excessive force to the lens or the acoustic window. Gently wipe the tip with a moist cloth. Do not squeeze the lens, the acoustic window, or the tip, because this may damage the transducer.

**CAUTION**

Do not allow sharp objects, such as scissors, scalpels, or cauterizing knives, to touch transducers or cables.

**CAUTION**

Articulate the tip only with the controls; do not articulate it with your hand.

**CAUTION**

Do not bend or crimp the flexible shaft or cable.

**CAUTION**

When handling a transducer, do not bump the transducer on hard surfaces.

High-Level Disinfecting TEE Transducers

High-level disinfection of TEE transducers uses the immersion method or an automated endoscopy reprocessor (AER) disinfectant. Before performing these procedures, read the warnings and cautions in the [“Safety”](#) section and [“Warnings and Cautions for TEE Transducers”](#) on page 47.

**WARNING**

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

Cleaning and Disinfecting TEE Transducers by Immersion

Disinfection by immersion is the accepted method of infection control for TEE transducers. Philips recommends that a protective transducer cover be used during studies.

Before performing this procedure, read the cautions and warnings in [“Warnings and Cautions for TEE Transducers” on page 47](#) and in the [“Safety”](#) section.

1. Disconnect the transducer from the system, and remove any accessories attached to or covering the transducer.
2. Choose the cleaning solutions and high-level disinfectants that are compatible with your transducer. Ensure that the solution strength and duration of contact are appropriate for the intended clinical use of the device. Follow the manufacturer's label instructions for preparation and solution strength. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

For a list of cleaning solutions and disinfectants that are compatible with your transducer, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the “Transducer and System Care” website:

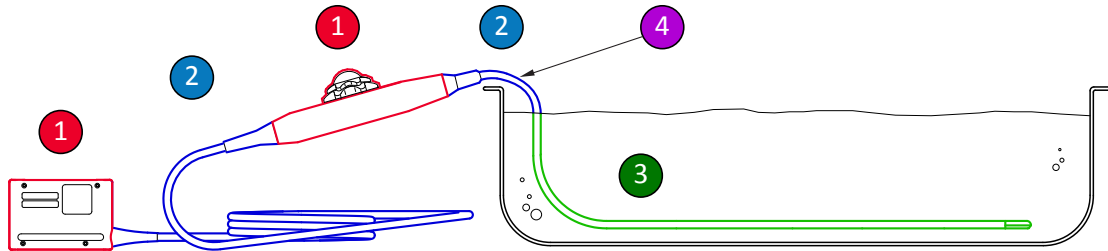
www.philips.com/transducercare.

3. Clean the TEE transducer:

- a. Using the cleaning solution or wipes that are compatible with the cable and connector, clean the cable, the strain reliefs, and the connector. If you are not using wipes, use a soft cloth lightly dampened in the selected solution to wipe the parts clean. A soft-bristled brush can be used only on the metal surfaces of the connector.
 - b. Clean the transducer distal tip and flexible shaft using any of the following: enzymatic cleaner, mild soap solution, or a compatible wipe. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. Do not use iodine-based soaps.
 - c. Use water to gently rinse the distal tip and flexible shaft thoroughly. Do not rinse or immerse the handle, steering mechanism, cable, or connector.
4. Using the disinfection solution compatible with your cable and connector, wipe or spray the cable, strain relief, and connector with the disinfectant, following disinfectant label instructions for wipe durations, solution strengths, and duration of disinfectant contact with the cable.

Ensure that the disinfectant solution does not enter the device. Do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. When wiping or spraying the connector, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces of the connector housing.
 5. Using the disinfection solution compatible with your control housing (handle and steering mechanism), lightly wipe it with a pad moistened with the disinfectant. You may use 70% isopropyl alcohol to disinfect the handle and steering mechanism. Do not allow any fluid to enter the handle, strain reliefs, or the steering mechanism.
 6. Disinfect the distal tip and flexible shaft by placing them into the compatible disinfectant as shown in the figure. Follow instructions on the disinfectant label for the duration of transducer immersion. Do not immerse transducers longer than the minimum time needed for your level of disinfection.
 7. Remove the distal tip and flexible shaft from the disinfectant and thoroughly rinse with water according to the instructions from the disinfectant manufacturer.
 8. Check the transducer for any residual organic material. If any is present, remove it and disinfect the transducer again.
 9. Gently dry the distal tip and flexible shaft with a sterile cloth or pad, or allow it to air dry.

10. Hang the transducer on a wall-mounted rack, and let it air dry.
11. Examine the transducer for damage, such as cracks, splitting, fluid leaks, or sharp edges or projections. If damage is evident, discontinue use of the transducer and contact your Philips representative.



Parts to Disinfect on a TEE Transducer

1 and 2	Spray and wipe these parts of the transducer with disinfectants that are compatible with the various parts. Do not immerse or rinse these parts; do not allow fluid to enter any unsealed opening.
1	If you want to use alcohol, only the outside of the handle housing and connector housing are compatible with 70% isopropyl alcohol. Lightly wipe with a pad moistened with the alcohol. Do not immerse or rinse these parts; do not allow fluid to enter any unsealed opening.
3	Only the flexible shaft can be immersed or rinsed. Soak for the minimum time recommended by the disinfectant manufacturer; do not immerse deeper or longer than recommended.
4	Immerse only to within 5 cm (2 in) from the strain relief; this is the maximum allowable immersion of the cable – you are not required to immerse to this point if it is not necessary.

Cleaning and Disinfecting TEE Transducers with an AER

Before performing this procedure, read the cautions and warnings in [“Warnings and Cautions for TEE Transducers”](#) on page 47 and in the [“Safety”](#) section.

Only some transducers are compatible with an automated endoscopy reprocessor (AER) disinfectant, and the AER can use only specific solutions. For more information, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the "Transducer and System Care" website:

www.philips.com/transducercare

1. Disconnect the transducer from the system, and remove any accessories attached to or covering the transducer.
2. Clean the TEE transducer according to the AER instructions, or clean as follows:
 - a. Clean the transducer distal tip and flexible shaft using any of the following: enzymatic cleaner, mild soap solution, or a compatible wipe. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. Do not use iodine-based soaps.
 - b. Use water to gently rinse the distal tip and flexible shaft thoroughly. Do not rinse or immerse the handle, steering mechanism, cable, or connector.
3. Follow the AER manufacturer's instructions for disinfection. For TEE transducers, ensure that the AER system isolates the transducer handle, cable, connector, and strain reliefs from contact with fluids used during the disinfectant cycle. These components are unsealed, so contact with fluids can damage the transducer. Avoidable transducer damage is not covered by the warranty or service contract.

Sterilizing TEE Transducers

Sterilization is required if the transducer enters otherwise sterile tissue without a sterile cover. If you use a sterile cover, sterilization is still recommended, but high-level disinfection is acceptable. The main difference between sterilization and high-level disinfection is the length of time that the transducer is immersed.

To determine if your transducer requires sterilization or high-level disinfection, see ["Transducer Care Methods" on page 27](#).

Before sterilizing a transducer, read ["Warnings and Cautions for TEE Transducers" on page 47](#) and the ["Safety"](#) section.

**WARNING**

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

**CAUTION**

When cleaning and disinfecting transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. On TEE transducers, do not allow any fluid to enter the handle or steering mechanism. When wiping or spraying connector or handle housings, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces. If available, place a connector-cover splash guard over the electrical contacts to help prevent fluid from entering the connector housing. Damage due to fluids in these areas is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

1. Disconnect the transducer from the system, and remove any accessories attached to or covering the transducer.
2. Choose the cleaning solutions and high-level disinfectants or sterilants that are compatible with your transducer. Follow the manufacturer's label instructions for preparation and solution strength. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

For a list of cleaning solutions, disinfectants, and sterilants that are compatible with your transducer, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the “Transducer and System Care” website:

www.philips.com/transducercare

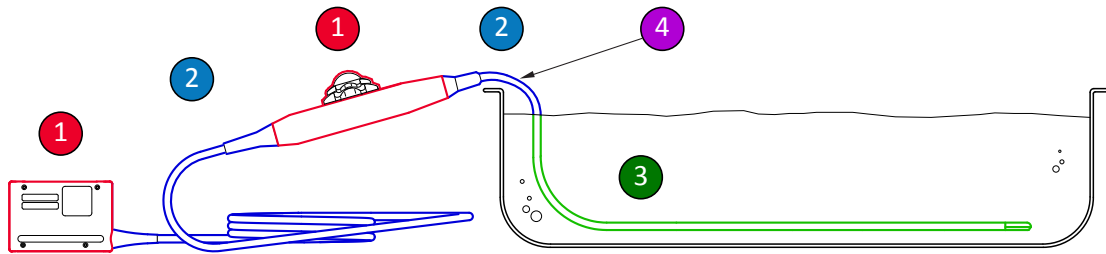
3. Clean the TEE transducer:
 - a. Using the cleaning solution or wipes compatible with cleaning the cable and connector, clean the cable, the strain reliefs, and the connector. If you are not using wipes, use a soft cloth lightly dampened in the selected solution to wipe the parts clean. A soft-bristled brush can be used only on the metal surfaces of the connector.

- b. Clean the transducer distal tip and flexible shaft using any of the following: enzymatic cleaner, mild soap solution, or a compatible wipe. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. Do not use iodine-based soaps.
 - c. Use water to gently rinse the distal tip and flexible shaft thoroughly. Do not rinse or immerse the handle, steering mechanism, cable, or connector.
4. Using the disinfection solution compatible with your cable and connector, wipe or spray the cable, strain relief, and connector with the disinfectant, following disinfectant label instructions for wipe durations, solution strengths, and duration of disinfectant contact with the cable. Ensure that the solution strength and duration of contact are appropriate for the intended clinical use of the device.

Ensure that the disinfectant solution does not enter the device. Do not allow any fluid to enter the connector through the electrical contacts, strain reliefs, connector housing, or areas surrounding the locking lever shaft. When wiping or spraying the connector, wipe or spray only the outer surfaces of the connector housing.

5. Using the disinfection solution compatible with your control housing (handle and steering mechanism), lightly wipe it with a pad moistened with the disinfectant. You may use 70% isopropyl alcohol to disinfect the handle and steering mechanism. Do not allow any fluid to enter the handle, strain reliefs, or the steering mechanism.
6. Sterilize the distal tip and flexible shaft by placing them into the compatible sterilant as shown in the figure. Follow instructions on the solution label for the duration of transducer immersion. Do not immerse transducers longer than the minimum time needed for your level of sterilization.
7. Remove the distal tip and flexible shaft from the solution and thoroughly rinse with water according to the instructions from the solution manufacturer.
8. Check the transducer for any residual organic material. If any is present, remove it and return to step 4.
9. Gently dry the distal tip and flexible shaft with a sterile cloth or pad, or allow it to air dry.
10. Hang the transducer on a wall-mounted rack, and let it air dry.

11. Examine the transducer for damage, such as cracks, splitting, fluid leaks, or sharp edges or projections. If damage is evident, discontinue use of the transducer and contact your Philips representative.



Parts to Disinfect on a TEE Transducer

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1 and 2 | Spray and wipe these parts of the transducer with disinfectants that are compatible with the various parts. Do not immerse or rinse these parts; do not allow fluid to enter any unsealed opening. |
| 1 | If you want to use alcohol, only the outside of the handle housing and connector housing are compatible with 70% isopropyl alcohol. Lightly wipe with a pad moistened with the alcohol. Do not immerse or rinse these parts; do not allow fluid to enter any unsealed opening. |
| 3 | Only the flexible shaft can be immersed or rinsed. Soak for the minimum time recommended by the disinfectant manufacturer; do not immerse deeper or longer than recommended. |
| 4 | Immerse only to within 5 cm (2 in) from the strain relief; this is the maximum allowable immersion of the cable – you are not required to immerse to this point if it is not necessary. |

Ultrasound Transmission Gels

For proper transmission of the acoustic beam, use the ultrasound transmission gel supplied by or recommended by Philips, or another glycol-, glycerol-, or water-based acoustic coupling medium.

**WARNING**

For intraoperative applications, use only the Sterile Aquasonic or Sterile Ultraphonic gel provided with the transducer cover.

**CAUTION**

Do not use lotion-based products or gels that contain mineral oil. Such products may damage the transducer and void the warranty.

**CAUTION**

Do not use hand sanitizing gels.

**CAUTION**

Do not apply the transducer gel until you are ready to perform the procedure. Transducers should not be left soaking in gel.

**CAUTION**

Gels listed here are recommended because of their chemical compatibility with product materials.

Some recommended gels include:

- Aquasonic 100
- Aquasonic Clear
- Carbogel-ULT

- ECG Gel (Nicom)
- Nemidon Gel
- Scan

For additional compatibility information, call Philips at 800-722-9377 (North America) or your local Philips Ultrasound representative (outside North America).

5 Transducer Storage and Transport

Use the appropriate guidelines for storing transducers for transport, and daily and long-term storage.

Storage for Transport

If a carrying case is provided with your transducer, always use the carrying case to transport the transducer from one site to another. Follow these guidelines to properly store transducers for transport:

- Make sure that the transducer is clean and disinfected before placing it in the case to avoid contaminating the foam that lines the carrying case.
- Place the transducer in the case carefully to prevent kinking of the cable.
- Before closing the lid, make sure no part of the transducer is protruding from the case.
- Wrap the case in plastic material containing sealed-air pockets (such as Bubble Wrap material), and pack the wrapped case in a cardboard carton.
- To avoid damaging the shaft or steering mechanism of TEE transducers, do not bend or coil the flexible shaft of the transducer in less than a 0.3-m (1-ft) diameter circle.

Daily and Long-Term Storage

Follow these guidelines to protect your transducer:

- Always store transducers in the transducer holders on the side of your system or on a securely mounted wall rack when you are not using them.
- Ensure the transducer holders are clean before storing transducers (see the [“System Cleaning and Maintenance”](#) section).
- When storing transducers, use the cable-management clips, if available, to secure the transducer cable.

- Avoid storing transducers in areas of temperature extremes or in direct sunlight.
- Store transducers separately from other instruments to avoid inadvertent transducer damage.
- Before storing transducers, make sure they are thoroughly dry.
- For TEE transducers, be sure the distal tip is straight and protected before storing the transducer.
- Never store a TEE transducer in the carrying case, except to transport it.

6 Disinfectants for Systems and Transducers

Read this information before performing disinfection and sterilization procedures. It discusses recommended disinfectants and choosing an appropriate disinfectant for the required level of disinfection. You must refer to the appropriate disinfectants and cleaning solutions compatibility table for the chemical compatibility of disinfectants and cleaners for Philips ultrasound transducers (see [“Choosing Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions” on page 69](#)).

About Disinfectants



WARNING

Not all disinfectants are effective against all types of contamination. Ensure that the disinfectant type is appropriate for the specified system or transducer and that the solution strength and time of contact are appropriate for the intended clinical use.



WARNING

Disinfectants are recommended because of their chemical compatibility with product materials, not their biological effectiveness. For the biological effectiveness of a disinfectant, see the guidelines and recommendations of the disinfectant manufacturer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.



WARNING

If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

**WARNING**

Always use protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing any equipment.

**WARNING**

The level of disinfection required for a device is dictated by the type of tissue it will contact during use and the type of transducer being used. Ensure that the disinfectant type is appropriate for the type of transducer and the transducer application. For information on the levels of disinfection requirements, see [“Transducer Care Methods” on page 27](#). Also, see the disinfectant label instructions and the recommendations of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

**CAUTION**

Using non-recommended disinfectants, using incorrect solution strengths, or immersing a transducer deeper or longer than recommended can damage or discolor the transducer and voids the transducer warranty.

**CAUTION**

On non-TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the transducer housing and lens. On TEE transducers, the only parts that may be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol are the connector housing and the control housing. Ensure that the solution is only 70% alcohol or less. Do not wipe any other part of a transducer with isopropyl alcohol (including cables or strain reliefs), as it can damage those parts of the transducer. This damage is not covered by the warranty or your service contract.

Factors Affecting Disinfectant Efficacy

The following factors will affect the efficacy of a disinfectant solution:

- Number and location of microorganisms
- Innate resistance of microorganisms
- Concentration and potency of disinfectants
- Physical and chemical factors
- Organic and inorganic matter
- Duration of exposure
- Biofilms

Choosing Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions

To choose the disinfectant and cleaning solutions that are compatible with your Philips ultrasound system and transducers for your system and transducers, see *Disinfectants and Cleaning Solutions for Ultrasound Systems and Transducers* or the “Transducer and System Care” website:

www.philips.com/transducercare

Follow the label instructions for preparation and solution strength. If a pre-mixed solution is used, be sure to observe the solution expiration date.

Based on material-compatibility testing, product-use profile, and active ingredients, Philips has approved for use the following types of *low-level* disinfectants used as a spray or wipe for surface (skin contact) and transvaginal or transrectal probes, according to the compatibility restrictions in the disinfectants table:

- Sodium-hypochlorite based (for example 10% household bleach solution with active sodium hypochlorite at approximately 0.6%)
- Quaternary-ammonium (QUAT) based (for example, products that contain n-alkyl xbenzyl ammonium chloride solution where x can be any organic functional group such as ethyl and methyl, and so on; concentration at use should be less than 0.8% total for all QUATs listed)

- Accelerated hydrogen-peroxide based (0.5% hydrogen peroxide maximum)
- Alcohol or alcohol-plus-QUAT based (product alcohol content cannot exceed 70%)
- Products not specifically listed in the compatibility table but with similar active ingredients, as indicated in this list, and marketed for medical use

Because of the large number of available cleaning and disinfection products, it is impossible to have an all-inclusive list. If you are unsure of the suitability of a particular product, please contact your Philips representative for assistance.

For more information:

- www.philips.com/transducercare
- In North America, call Philips at 800-722-9377.
- Outside North America, contact your local Philips representative.

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