



April 16, 2020

Re: Long-term storage of Olympus flexible endoscopes

Dear Valued Olympus Customer:

This letter provides information regarding long-term storage of Olympus flexible endoscopes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the current situation with COVID-19 and unit closures, each facility should carefully review their current infection prevention policies related to flexible endoscope reprocessing and assess possible safety risks. Once this has been completed, if the endoscopes have been properly reprocessed before storage and are being stored as per policy, the facility may deem it acceptable to keep them in storage and perform reprocessing prior to their next clinical use. Your facility policies should reflect these changes in process.

Please follow storage instructions in the endoscope-specific Olympus instructions for use (IFU). Maintaining flexible endoscopes hanging vertically with locks in the free position within a locked endoscope-specific storage cabinet for long-term storage is appropriate.

Ensure the endoscope undergoes a complete reprocessing cycle before clinical use if the facility-determined length of storage has been exceeded.

Finally, Olympus suggests that you work with your internal infection control personnel to address and implement any changes to your endoscopic reprocessing systems or controls.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Olympus Technical Assistance Center at 800-848-9024 (United States) or 800-387-0437 (Canada).

Thank you for your attention.

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL
Medical & Scientific Affairs

Reference:

Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. *Management of endoscopes, endoscope reprocessing, and storage areas during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Published online April 13, 2020. <<https://www.sages.org/management-endoscopes-reprocessing-storage-covid-19/>>