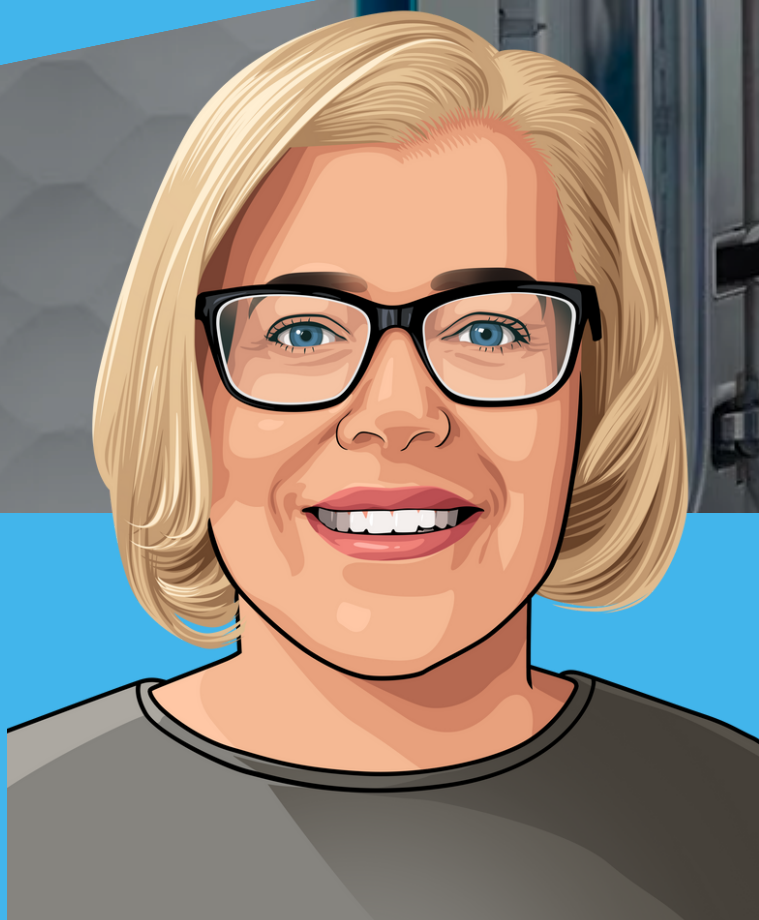


ULTRASOUND PROBE AUDIT



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Beyond Clean UK&I Ultrasound Probe Expert™:

Ultrasound Probe Audit

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Effective decontamination of ultrasound probes is a crucial aspect of minimising the risk of healthcare-associated infections. Given the widespread use of ultrasound probes throughout various hospital departments, it is imperative to not only identify all probes but also establish a standardised operating procedure (SOP) for decontamination across the entire healthcare organisation. This article outlines recommended steps for creating and implementing an SOP.

Step 1: Locate and Profile Ultrasound Probes: The initial step involves a thorough assessment of the ultrasound probes in use within the healthcare facility. This includes observing their condition, assessing current decontamination practices, and identifying any discrepancies between current guidelines and existing standard operating procedures.

Step 2: Algorithm for Reprocessing: Once all ultrasound probes have been identified, it is essential to create an algorithm that specifies the correct reprocessing requirements, based on guidelines and organised by the department. A well-defined algorithm streamlines the decontamination process, making it efficient and effective.

Step 3: Risk Assessment: To further enhance infection prevention, a comprehensive risk assessment should be conducted. This assessment should consider potential hazards encountered during the entire lifecycle of ultrasound probes, from their use to reprocessing, storage, and traceability.

Step 4: Policy Development: Developing a robust ultrasound infection prevention policy specific to your healthcare facility is vital. This policy should encapsulate the findings and recommendations from the previous steps, outlining clear guidelines and protocols for ultrasound probe decontamination. The policy serves as a critical reference document for healthcare professionals and ensures consistent adherence to best practices.

Ultrasound Infection Prevention Toolkit: To assist healthcare organizations in achieving these crucial steps, a specialized Ultrasound Infection Prevention Toolkit has been collaboratively developed by a group of clinical decontamination and Infection Prevention experts. The toolkit comprises four free tools designed to facilitate the implementation of the above actions <https://www.ultrasoundinfectionprevention.org.uk/>.

By following the recommended steps outlined in this article and utilizing the Ultrasound Infection Prevention Toolkit, healthcare facilities can establish and maintain a rigorous SOP for ultrasound probe decontamination. This proactive approach contributes significantly to the overall safety and well-being of both patients and healthcare providers.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Ellie at: e.wishart@nanosonics.com

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Infection Prevention. For Life.



As the Senior Medical Affairs Manager, EMEA for Nanosonics, Ellie Wishart is responsible for engaging with thought leaders and key organisations on infection prevention & decontamination topics and coordinating the regional podium strategy and educational activities. Ellie works closely with the sales & marketing teams to empower education, practical knowledge and best practices in Infection Prevention and decontamination.

Ellie has a degree in Microbiology from University College Dublin, Ireland and has been involved in the provision of Infection Prevention solutions to Healthcare facilities for over 20 years in a previous role and has worked as Microbiology Laboratory Manager and Life Sciences & Medical Device Cleanroom consultant.

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