

ELECTRONIC IRRIGATOR CLEANING GUIDELINE

			PROCEDURAL
Document Category	Clinical		
Document Type	Guideline		
Keywords	Irrigator decontamination		
Version:	Issue Date:	Review Date:	
4	1 st December 2025	1 st December 2028	
Supersedes	Cleaning guidelines for an electronic irrigator November 2022 – November 2025		
Approved by (Committee / group)	Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust Ear Care and Audiology clinical governance. Heads of Service Clinical governance	Date Approved:	1 st December 2025
Scope of target audience	This guidance document was developed to provide guidance to any healthcare worker required to decontaminate the electronic irrigator.		
Evidence base/ References	Manufactures instructions – Pro Pulse Irrigator		
Lead Care Group	Care Group 4		
Lead Specialty/ Department: (Or Care Group if ‘care group’ owned)	Ear Care and Audiology Specialist Nursing team.		
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Sponsor (position/ role):	N/A
<i>Name the documents here or record not applicable (these are documents which are usually developed or reviewed/ amended at the same time – ie a family of documents)</i>	
Associated Policy	N/A
Associated Procedure(s)	N/A
Associated Pathway(s)	N/A
Associated Standard Operating Procedure(s)	N/A
Consultation Undertaken:	Consultation undertaken with Ear Care Specialist Nursing Team and Clinical Lead for Ear Care and Audiology.
Template control:	

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Amendments from previous version(s)

Version	Issue Date	Section(s) involved (author to record section number/page)	Amendment (author to summarise)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

This is a guideline for the disinfection of the electronic irrigator for a trained health care professional.

2.0 AIMS/ OBJECTIVES/ PURPOSE

The aim of this document is to provide clear guidelines to health care professionals required to disinfect/ decontaminate the electronic irrigator prior to use.

Sodium Hypochlorite 0.1% has only 1 Chlorine molecule and will release ALL this Chlorine if in contact with any vegetative matter. Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate (NaDCC) 0.1% has 2 Chlorine molecules which are slowly released, maintaining at all times 50% of its own weight. This is available in the form of Chlor-Clean tablets (Guest Medical) as per research completed by Dr David Coates from Q Laboratories Ltd, Preston, in 2001. A covered litre container can be used to mix and store the solution for up to 8 hours.

Chlor-Clean is mentioned particularly because it contains a surfactant (i.e. detergent) in addition to a disinfectant.

Related Trust Documents

Ear irrigation guideline (2025)

3.0 ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Definitions

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

Abbreviations

None

4.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All health care workers using the electronic irrigator must follow this guideline for cleaning prior to use.

5.0 GUIDELINE DETAILS

SCOPE

This procedure should be carried out by the relevant trained health care worker at the start of the day. Personnel disinfecting the irrigator should wear PPE; apron, gloves and visor. The procedure should be carried out in a well ventilated area.

PROCEDURE

Each day before use, the electronic irrigator must be disinfected using a solution of Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate 0.1% (NaDCC), according to manufacturer's instructions, to make a solution which provides 1000 parts (NaDCC) per million (0.1%).

- Fill the water tank with NaDCC solution
- Run the irrigator for a few seconds to allow the solution to fill the pump and flexible tubing
- Leave to stand for 10 minutes
- Empty the water tank, then rinse the system through with well-run cold tap water before use

6.0 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

How to decontaminate the electronic irrigator effectively will be covered in the Rotherham Ear Care Centers Irrigation and Instrumentation study day.

7.0 MONITORING COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS

Compliance with this procedural guideline will be monitored by undertaking yearly peer led clinical supervision.