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ULTRASOUND TRANSDUCER REPROCESSING GUIDELINES SET NEW STANDARD FOR HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

The Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) and the Australasian College for Infection Prevention Control (ACIPC) have released their joint 'Guidelines for Reprocessing of Ultrasound Transducers'.

The guidelines, which have been based on the standards of AS/NZS4187:2014 and AS/NZS4185:2006, provide recommendations on the cleaning and disinfection of all ultrasound transducers, as well as the use of ultrasound equipment during and after medical procedures. They detail the minimum standards of practice for reprocessing ultrasound transducers and reflect the available evidence based on best practice.

President of the ACIPC, Professor Ramon Shaban, has welcomed the release, describing it as an important guide for everyday infection control practice.

"Reprocessing equipment appropriately is fundamental infection prevention and control practice for the quality and safety of healthcare. The nature of medical equipment and devices is such that processes for reprocessing are complex. This important work provides infection control practitioners with useful practical guidance for minimum standard of practice that are consistent with the wider evidence-base".

CEO of ASUM, Lyndal Macpherson, has reiterated the importance of infection prevention and control measures within the ultrasound field.

"The ultrasound community continues to grow in traditional and emerging markets. This document serves as evidence based guidelines to ensure all practitioners offer optimal patient care in all aspects of the ultrasound examination".

Published in the February issue of the Australasian Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine (AJUM), the guidelines can be freely accessed online via <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajum.12042/full>. The guidelines will be reviewed every 4 years jointly by ASUM and ACIPC unless evidence suggests an earlier review is required.

For further information please contact ASUM (via asum@asum.com.au) or ACIPC (via admin@acipc.com.au).

About ACIPC

The ACIPC is the peak body for Infection Prevention and Control in the Australasian region. The college supports infection prevention and control professionals by providing them with support, networking, knowledge and up to date information relevant to their area of practice. www.acipc.org.au

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About ASUM

The Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine is the premier multidisciplinary society advancing the clinical practice of diagnostic medical ultrasound for the highest standards of patient care. www.asum.com.au

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