



Blood Pressure Cuff Cleaning

This document will review and reflect several major points of consideration as they relate to the care and cleaning of Technicuff Blood Pressure Cuffs for maximum useful cuff life.

Technicuff is registered with and has received clearance to market its blood pressure cuff from the Food and Drug Administration. Technicuff's FDA 510K file # K942259 clearance is for a reusable blood pressure cuff sold by or on order of a physician.

As a **reusable blood pressure cuff**, healthcare providers must exercise universal precautions in regard to cross contamination through reuse. **Technicuff recommends that health care providers establish blood pressure cuff cleaning, sanitizing and disinfectant policies in adherence with local, state and federal regulations.**

OSHA 29CFR 1910.1030

- The employer must determine and implement an appropriate written schedule of cleaning and decontamination based upon the location within the facility (e.g., surgical operatory versus patient room), type of surface to be cleaned (e.g., hard-surfaced flooring versus carpeting), type of soil present (e.g., gross contamination versus minor splattering), and tasks and procedures being performed (e.g., laboratory analysis versus normal patient care).

Technicuff established very high requirements for its cuff's performance during the design phase and realizes **that its blood pressure cuffs will become so soiled and contaminated prior to failure that they should not be placed on any patient.** Placing soiled or contaminated blood pressure cuffs on patients to save pennies is nothing less than reckless disregard of patient safety. In that light, **Technicuff does not warrant blood pressure cuffs which have been used on more than 30 patients or blood pressure cuffs that have a manufacturing date older than twelve (12) months.**



It is Technicuff's view that **patient safety should be the deciding factor in determining the useful life of its blood pressure cuff, not maximum performance.**

"significant bacterial colonization of blood pressure cuffs utilized in the O.R., ICU and PACU settings does occur"¹
"blood pressure cuffs can actually be a clinically important vector in the transmission of infection on an in-patient floor"¹

¹. (SIGNIFICANT BACTERIAL COLONIZATION OCCURS ON THE SURFACE OF NON-DISPOSABLE SPHYGMOMANOMETER CUFFS AND RE-USED DISPOSABLE CUFFS, Andrew L. Sternlicht, M.D. & Alan Van Poznak, M.D. Affiliation: Department of Anesthesiology, New York Hospital Medical Center, New York, New York 10021)

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Washing: The following Technicuff Blood Pressure Cuffs were designed to be Washed, Rinsed and Dried. Each cuff is warranted for a maximum of 29 washes, 30 patients.

UT-3962	Universal Thigh Cuff	UT-3962L	Universal Thigh Lite
UA-1745	Universal Adult Cuff	UA-1745L	Universal Adult Lite
UP-0925	Universal Pediatric	UP-0925L	Universal Pediatric Lite
UI-0515	Universal Infant	UI-0515L	Universal Infant Lite
UN-0314	Universal Neonate (4cm)	UN-0314L	Universal Neonate Lite
UN-0309	Universal Neonate (3cm)	UN-0309L	Universal Neonate Lite
UA-E	Universal Adult Extended		

Cuff Care:

Maximum Washing Temperature: 165⁰ F

Technicuff's outer cover is a high quality nylon material which will dimensionally change when exposed to temperatures greater than 180⁰ F.

Maximum Drying Temperature: 165⁰ F

Technicuff's outer cover is a high quality nylon material which will dimensionally change when exposed to temperatures greater than 180⁰ F.

Protection from liquids:

Technicuff part# TEC-CAP connector must be used to seal the bladder tubing prior to washing. If tubing is not sealed and liquid enters the bladder, the cuff must be discarded. **Using any cuff where liquids have entered the bladder will damage monitoring systems.**

Elimination of Cuff Entanglement:

To eliminate cuff entanglement, the hook and loop material of each individual cuff must be connected as if the cuff was placed on a patient's arm. This eliminates multiple cuffs from attaching together during washing, rinsing and drying cycles.

Pre-Cleaning:

Care should be taken to remove contaminants from the Hook and Loop such as dried blood, lint, hair, skin, lice or scabies, which can survive washing and disinfecting. You should follow OSHA 29CFR 1910.1030 instructions prior to washing.

OSHA 29CFR 1910.1030

When decontaminating reusable equipment that is heavily soiled, the employee will have to perform some pre-washing before proceeding with decontamination because most disinfectants/sterilants cannot sufficiently penetrate the organic material that may remain on such heavily soiled equipment. (See M.4.d. (2)(e) of this instruction for details.)

Washing:

Technicuff blood pressure cuffs should be thoroughly washed with a Medical Enzyme Based Detergent.

Disinfectant:

Technicuff blood pressure cuffs should be thoroughly washed with a EPA registered disinfectant such as those used for routine cleaning of towels, linen and gowns.

Rinsing:

All reprocessible Technicuff blood pressure cuffs and extenders should be thoroughly rinsed to remove all disinfectant detergent residues. Rinsing temperature should not exceed 165⁰ F.

Drying:

Technicuff part# TEC-CAP connector used to protect the blood pressure cuff from liquids should be removed prior to drying. The connector should be saved for future use and not thrown away. All washable Technicuff blood pressure cuffs and extenders should be thoroughly dried prior to movement to inventory or placement on patients' arms. Drying temperature should not exceed 165⁰ F.

WIPES: For example Sani-Cloth



Follow Wipe Manufacturer's recommendation for cleaning.

Patient Safety should always be the deciding factor in determining the useful life of any blood pressure cuff