Implementing the SOHN-Endorsed AORN Guidelines for Reprocessing Reusable Upper Airway Endoscopes

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This is a companion paper to two previous publications on recommended practices for cleaning and reprocessing flexible endoscopes used in Otolaryngology (Burlingame, Arcilla, & McDermott, 2008 per AORN; Adams & Baker, 2010 per SOHN). In this paper we capture and expand upon the audience question and answer session in which the SOHN-endorsed AORN recommended practices were presented to the SOHN membership (Adams & Waddington, September, 2010). We include additional background information to assist readers in understanding some of the science behind the recommendations and share successful implementation strategies from ORL outpatient nurses and published references.

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Editorial
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Universal newborn hearing screening (UNHS) has been implemented for several decades to screen for congenital hearing loss; however, the lost to follow-up (LFU) rate for newborns with a failed screen is nearly 50%. Many studies have examined risk factors rendering infants susceptible to being LFU, but there are no quality improvement studies using evidence-based practice that aim to improve follow-up rates. This study utilized a nurse practitioner (NP) to provide a teaching intervention to educate parents on recommended follow-up after a failed hearing screen, including the Healthy People 2020 objectives.