



# Practice Briefs

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Is it okay to use a bulk container and “top-off” ultrasound transmission gel containers?

**NO**

A number of publications have shown that ultrasound gel can become contaminated with pathogens and be the source of significant outbreaks.

In 2012, Susan Oleszkowicz and her colleagues suggested guidelines to minimize the risk of infections associated with use of ultrasound transmission gel. Here are some highlights:

- Single-dose sterile ultrasound transmission gel should be used when caring for neonates and critically ill pediatric patients.
- Nonsterile ultrasound transmission gel may be used on intact skin (single dose or multidose).
- If multidose containers of nonsterile ultrasound transmission gel are used on intact skin, the container must be sealed appropriately when not in use.
- Containers of ultrasound transmission gel should never be washed and refilled for use but should be replaced when empty.

We recommend accessing the entire article for additional guidelines. It can be found at

S. Oleszkowicz, et al. Infections Associated with Use of Ultrasound Transmission Gel: Proposed Guidelines to Minimize Risk. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, Vol. 33, No. 12 (December 2012), pp. 1235-1237. Retrieved from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/668430> Accessed 12.7.17

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