



March 23, 2009

**RE: Carrying Cases for Olympus Flexible Endoscopes**

Dear Healthcare Professional,

In response to your questions about Olympus' flexible endoscope carrying cases, these cases cannot be easily cleaned or disinfected. Therefore, anything placed into the case, including reprocessed endoscopes, should be considered re-contaminated as a result of contact with the case's lining. In addition, wet or damp flexible endoscopes stored in closed cases produces a humid, non-ventilated environment and storage for long periods under these conditions may create an infection control risk. It is because of these considerations that Olympus recommends that flexible endoscopes not be stored in carrying cases and those that are transported in cases should reprocessed before use.

Because the carrying case cannot be reprocessed, instruments placed into the case should be decontaminated as any remaining contaminating material may be transferred to the lining and contaminate other instruments subsequently placed into the case. If a carrying case does become contaminated, the current recommendation would be to replace the case.

If you have any additional questions, please contact your local Olympus sales representative or the Olympus Technical Assistance Center at 1-800-848-9024 (United States) or 1-800-387-0437 ext 703211 (Canada). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Olympus