

## **Dr Brown bottle sterilization**

### **Original Question Asker's Summary:**

I was able to talk to the Dr Brown representative and we will be going to single use only with the microwavable steam bags. Technically the bottles CAN be autoclaved and the company does not know why they melted despite following the IFU. The company reports most places do the sterilization with the microwavable bag and only a few autoclave. This is also what I found from your responses.

## **Response from Question related to Dr Brown bottle sterilization**

- We follow manufacturer guidelines and use the sterilization bags that are run through the microwave.
- We are single use, at this point. However, even with Dr. Brown's bottles- the IFU says to sterilize prior to use. We use the steam bags/microwave them.
  - I attached the info flyer that nursing made to let all units know what needed to happen. We vetted this with infection control. We also had our Joint Commission Survey this summer- and they felt like this was an appropriate process (as they certainly asked!).
- We are single use only and would not receive infection prevention approval to move to multi-patient use for a bottle.
- We follow manufacturer guidelines and use the sterilization bags that are run through the microwave
- This just came up bc a rep was trying to sell sterilization bags to one of our speech therapists. We have always assigned individual brushes to patients and just washed the brush with warm, soapy water after use and air dry.
- We use Dr. Brown as well, but they are all single patient use.
- We use the Dr. Brown sterilization bags that are designed for the system. Thanks!
- We have a microwave set aside for sterilization and we use the medella microwave sterilizer bags.
- I was forwarded your email about bottle sterilization—I am a NICU OT. Our current bottle practice, after a lot of talks with Dr. Brown's, is individual washing with just soap and water with bottle brush after every feed, and sterilization in a sterilization bag, 1x/day. We are currently using the medela microwavable sterilization bags. We did have to have microwaves put in our unit that are sterilization only microwaves to get through some of the infectious disease concerns, no food allowed
- For our outpatient team, we use a Dr. Brown's sterilizer and distilled water to sterilize bottles and bottle parts. In the inpatient setting, space is more limited, and bottles are required to be sterilized between uses for patients who remain hospitalized. In those cases, we use sterilization bags placed in a designated microwave along with distilled water.
  - I also know that some of our outpatient locations that don't have the counter space to use the sterilizer—and then dry and store the bottle parts in a way that keeps them sterile—also use the sterilization bags as an alternative.
  - I think it would depend on your support staff. We have a rehab tech that helps to do all the sterilizing and then we store all sterilized bottle systems and nipples. The bottles are wrapped and marked, and the nipples are

bagged and marketed sterilized. This way works well for our Feeding team that is just grabbing and then able to trial. We also stock a lot of different trial options and the therapists may be trialing multiple systems in a session/ evaluation if something isn't working for the baby.

- If you don't have someone to support and own that I think that as long as session time allowed for the bags to be used that would work. The bags to get the bottles quite hot so it wouldn't be able to be used as soon as it came out of the microwave. We are only on 45-minute sessions so this would be a tough turnaround time for our team. Not impossible but not ideal.
- I would recommend that they reach out to Dr. Browns medical to discuss this concern. We follow Dr. Browns specific hospital cleaning guidelines and all of these nipples/bottles are single patient use.