



# Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plating System

## Instructions for Use

Attention Operating Surgeon

### Device Description

The Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plating System Plates and Screws are manufactured from Titanium Alloy (Ti-6Al-4V ELI). The System includes plates offered in various styles, sizes and options; each contoured for specific anatomy and designed for specific procedures, and 3.5mm, 4.0mm, 4.5mm and 5.5mm diameter locking and non-locking cortical screws to be used with the polyaxial locking holes and compression slots included in the plates. The system also includes reusable instrumentation necessary to implant the plates and screws, e.g. drills, drill guides, tissue protectors, targeting guides, and targeting guide sleeves.

### Indications

The Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plating System is indicated for use in arthrodesis of the ankle including tibiotalar and tibiotalar joints and tibiocalcaneal arthrodeses, in conjunction with stabilization of fresh fractures, revision procedures, and reconstruction of bones in the feet and ankles.

The Medline UNITE® Locking and Non-Locking Cortical Screws are indicated for use with the Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plates of the same base material. The Non-Locking Cortical Screws are also indicated for bone reconstruction, osteotomy, arthrodesis, joint fusion, fracture repair, and fracture fixation, appropriate for the size of the device. The system can be used in both adult and pediatric (adolescent and child) patients.

Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plates and Screws used for the surgical treatment of pediatric patients should not cross an active growth plate as this may impede bone growth and development in skeletally immature patients. Implanted Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plates and Screws which span an active growth plate in a pediatric patient, should be considered for hardware removal after primary arthrodesis or bone healing has been achieved.

### Information for Use

The surgeon must select the type of and size implant that best meets the patient's surgical needs.

### Contraindications

1. Any previous or active infection or blood supply limitations.
2. Insufficient quality of bone or soft tissue.
3. Patients who are unwilling or incapable of following postoperative care instructions.
4. Material sensitivity. If suspected, tests should be conducted prior to implantation.
5. This device is not intended for implant attachment or fixation to the posterior elements (pedicles) of the cervical, thoracic, or lumbar spine.

### Adverse Effects

- Fracture of implant due to excessive activity, prolonged loading upon the device, incomplete or inadequate healing, or excessive force exerted on the implant during insertion.
- Implant migration and/or loosening requiring revision surgery.
- Bone resorption or over-production.
- Metal sensitivity or histological or allergic reaction resulting from implant material.
- Infection or painful, swollen or inflamed implant site.
- Unexpected histological response possibly involving macrophages and/or fibroblasts.
- Migration of particle wear debris possibly resulting in bodily response.
- Embolism
- Pain, discomfort, or abnormal sensations due to the presence of an implant.
- Necrosis of the bone.
- Necrosis of the tissue.
- Nerve damage resulting from surgical trauma.

### Pre-Operative Precautions

It is the surgeon's responsibility to determine the best course of action for each patient. The surgeon should carefully consider the following when selecting a patient for surgery:

- More conservative treatment options.
- Patient's weight, occupation, and activity level.
- Patient's expectations of the device.
- Patient's willingness to follow post-operative instructions.
- Patient conditions that may limit their ability to recognize limitations of the device that may lead to device failure, such as senility, mental illness, or alcoholism.
- Known or suspect material allergies.
- Comorbidities, e.g. diabetes, smoking.

The patient should be warned of surgical risks and be made aware of possible adverse effects. For safe and effective use, the surgeon must be thoroughly familiar with this type of implant, the method of application, instrumentation, and the recommended surgical technique and indications for this type of device. Improper implantation of the device can increase the possibility of loosening or migration. No metal implants can be expected to withstand loads at the same level as healthy bone. Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plates have not been designed to withstand the stress of weight bearing, load bearing, or excess activity. Fracture of the implant or damage can occur when the implant is subjected to increased loading associated with delayed union, nonunion, or incomplete healing. If excessive loading cannot be prevented, an implant should not be used.

### Intra-Operative Precautions

- The surgeon must select the type and size implant that best meets the patient's surgical needs.
- Inspect all implants for scratching and nicking prior to use as such stress concentrations can lead to failure. Avoid flanging the implant surface during insertion to minimize the potential for failure.
- An implant shall never be reused. Previous stresses may have created imperfections, which can lead to a device failure.
- Instruments, particularly drills and drivers, shall be inspected for wear or damage prior to use.
- Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plating System is designed specifically for use with Medline instrumentation. The use of other instrumentation is not recommended.

### Post-Operative Precautions

The patient should be warned of the limitations of surgery and the need to protect the implant from full weight bearing until adequate fixation and healing have occurred. The postoperative care instructions provided by the surgeon should be strictly followed to avoid adverse stresses applied to the device. Failure to follow postoperative care instructions can cause implant and/or treatment failure. Periodic follow-up, including x-rays for comparison to early post-op conditions, is recommended to monitor the position and state of the implant, the condition of the bone, and any signs of implant migration, loosening, bending, or cracking.

### Recommendations Regarding Device Fragments

1. In the event of implant fracture, carefully consider and discuss with the patient, if possible, the risk/benefit of removing the hardware versus leaving the fragment in the patient. Things to consider and discuss with the patient include: the material composition of the fragment (if known), the size and location of the fragment, and the potential mechanisms of injury if the fragment is not removed, including MRI exams.
2. Any decision to remove the device should take into consideration the potential risk to the patient of a second surgical procedure.
3. If removal is determined to be the best course of action, inspect the device immediately after removal from patient for signs of damage. If the device is damaged, retain the device to assist the manufacturer's investigation of the event. Device removal should be followed by adequate postoperative care.

### Concerning Magnetic Resonance Environment

The Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plating System has not been evaluated for safety and compatibility in the MR environment. It has not been tested for heating, migration, or image artifact in the MR environment. The safety of the Medline UNITE® Ankle Fusion Plating System in the MR environment is unknown. Scanning a patient who has this device may result in patient injury.

### Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization

All implants and instruments are provided non-sterile in trays or individually packaged and must be adequately cleaned and sterilized prior to use or re-use. A machine wash and manual cleaning method is provided and has been developed and tested consistent with ISO 17664 and AAMI TIR 30. The provided sterilization recommendations have been developed and tested consistent with ANSI/AAMI ST79. An implant should never be re-sterilized after contact with human body tissues or fluids. Devices labeled for single use only should never be reused. Reuse of these devices may result in, but are not limited to decreased performance of the product, cross-infection, and contamination. Trays should be thoroughly cleaned and inspected prior to use. Visually inspect the tray for cleanliness. Repeat cleaning process, as necessary, until tray is visually clean. All instruments, where applicable, must be disassembled prior to cleaning. If possible, the machine procedure (Washer-Disinfector) should be used for cleaning and disinfection of instruments. The Manual Cleaning procedure should only be used if an automated procedure is not available.

Do not allow excessive debris and soft tissue to dry after use. Begin cleaning process as soon after use as possible. Additional scrubbing may be required if debris and soft tissue dry.

### Machine wash Cleaning

#### Pre-Cleaning

1. Remove gross soil from all device surfaces by rinsing under running cold tap water while brushing with a soft-bristled nylon brush for one (1) minute.
2. Rinse devices under warm running tap water (<35°C) for at least one (1) minute.
3. In an ultrasonic bath, prepare a cleaning solution with cold tap water according to the manufacturer's instructions using the minimum effective concentration (i.e. 1/8 oz. per gallon).
4. Immerse the device in the cleaning solution and brush under the solution surface for two (2) minutes. Special attention should be paid to hard-to-reach areas, such as hinges, joints, crevices, and lumens. All movable parts must be actuated at least five (5) times. Lumens must be brushed with appropriate diameter and length bristle size for particular lumen.
5. Place the devices in the open position with all surface/lumens in contact with the cleaning solution and sonicated at a minimum of 40 +/- 5 kHz for 10 minutes.

- Following sonication, remove each device from the bath and rinse under cold, running tap water for one (1) minute. All hard-to-reach areas and lumens must be thoroughly and aggressively rinsed.
- Proceed to Machine (Automated) cleaning.

### Cleaning and Thermal Disinfection

- Return devices to their appropriate location in the tray. The systems should not be fully assembled, and the lid should not be secured during automated cleaning. Each level of the system and tray lid must be loaded in the mechanical washer such that all design features are accessible and any design feature that will retain liquid can drain, if possible.
- Run an automated wash cycle with fundamentally approved efficiency of the washer-disinfector (for example, CE marking according to EN ISO 15883 or FDA approval/clearance/registration).
- The minimum recommended wash cycle parameters listed below were utilized by Medline during the validation of these instructions:

Treatment	Time (mm:ss)	Temperature	Cleaning Solution
Pre-wash	03:00	Cold Tap Water	N/A
Wash 1	10:00	Warm Tap Water (50°C)	Enzymatic cleaner*
Wash 2	02:00	Warm Tap Water (50°C)	Neutral Detergent†
Rinse	03:00	Cold Tap Water	N/A
Thermal Disinfection	05:00	90°C	N/A
Drying	06:00	90°C	N/A

\*Medline Industries, LP used the following during the validation of these instructions - STERIS® Prolystica® 2X Concentrate Enzymatic Cleaning, 1/8 oz. per gallon (min. effective concentration)

†Medline Industries, LP used the following during the validation of these instructions - STERIS® Prolystica® 2X Concentrate Neutral Detergent, 1/8 oz. per gallon (min. effective concentration)

- Remove the devices from the washer-disinfector following the completion of the program and check devices for visible soil.
- Repeat cleaning if soil is visible and re-inspect, or safely dispose of devices.

### Manual Cleaning

- Rinse under cool running tap water to remove visual soil.
- Prepare enzymatic detergent per manufacturer's recommendation using lukewarm tap water.
- Allow the device to soak in the prepared enzymatic detergent for 1 minute.
- Using a soft bristled brush, thoroughly brush the device to remove soil.
- Run a stylet through the lumens a minimum of 3 times to remove soil.
- Using a syringe, aggressively flush the lumens with the prepared enzymatic detergent.
- Remove the device from the detergent and rinse under cool running tap water to remove detergent residuals.
- Prepare neutral detergent per manufacturer's recommendation using warm tap water.
- Allow the device to soak in the prepared neutral detergent for three (3) minutes.
- Using a soft bristled brush, thoroughly brush the device to remove soil.
- Run a stylet through the lumens a minimum of three (3) times to remove soil.
- Using a syringe, aggressively flush the lumens with the prepared neutral detergent.
- Remove the device from the detergent and rinse in running RO/DI water to remove detergent residuals.
- Prepare enzymatic detergent per manufacturer's recommendation in a sonication unit.
- Allow the device to sonicate for 10 minutes.
- Remove the device from the sonicator and thoroughly rinse under running critical water.
- Using a syringe, aggressively flush the lumens.
- Dry the device with a disposable, lint-free cloth.
- Visually inspect the device for cleanliness.
- If device is still visibly soiled, repeat manual cleaning instructions or safely dispose of the device.

Instruments should be inspected for any damage or wear prior to use. Instruments that have corrosion, pitting, and/or discoloration should not be used.

### Sterilization

Sterilization should be performed in the provided tray double-wrapped in FDA cleared sterilization wrap using the following method:

Cycle Type	Parameter	Set Point
Prevacuum	Exposure Temperature	270°F (132°C)
	Exposure Time	4 Minutes
	Dry Time	40 Minutes

Do not stack trays during sterilization.

Ensure that the implants and instruments are at room temperature prior to use.

### Storage:

Store all devices in a clean and dry environment. The devices are manufactured from non-degradable materials. When stored under the recommended conditions, the shelf life of this product is not limited.

**CAUTION:** Federal Law (USA) restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

For additional product information, please visit [www.medline.com](http://www.medline.com) or contact customer service at **1-800-MEDLINE**.

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