

Infection Control Check-Up John A. Molinari, Ph.D., Peri Nelson, B.S.

Pro-Active Office Infection Control Procedures

Dental Infection Control Program and Evaluation				
Y	N	Is there a written infection control program in place?		
Υ	N	Does the office have an IC and OSHA coordinator assigned?		
Y	N	Have all DHCP been trained on Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA) requirements?		
Υ	N	Are required OSHA and infection control updates documented?		
Y	N	Does the office/clinic routinely review and evaluate the office infection control program?		
Υ	N	Have all DHCP* personnel received training regarding the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and protection against infectious agents?		
Y	N	Are training records maintained according to state and federal requirement?		
DHCP* Personal Safety				
Y	N	Are Standard Precautions followed for all patients?		
Y	N	Is the HBV vaccination offered and records kept?		
Y	N	Are sharps containers and needle recapping devices available?		
Y	N	Is there a needle stick protocol and Post Exposure program?		
Y	N	Are exposure records kept confidential?		
Υ	N	Are DHCP screened for tuberculosis (TB) at time of hire regardless of the setting risk classification?		
_ Y	N	Are DHCP educated to prevent spread of respiratory pathogens when coming in contact with symptomatic persons?		
Υ	N	Are there written policies and procedures for patients known to have an infectious disease upon arrival?		
Contact Dermatitis and Latex Sensitivity				
Y	N	Does the initial patient history include inquiries of possible allergies to latex?		
Y	N	Are there latex-safe items available for patients and DHCP?		
Y	N	Are patients and DHCP made aware of latex sensitivity and consequences?		
Y	N	Is a latex-free emergency kit available?		

Pre – Patient Treatment

Hand	Hygiene
	, 3

Y	N	Are skin sensitivities & allergies considered when selecting products?
Y	N	Are available products manufactured for DHCP?
Y	N	Do DHCP cleanse their hands before treating patients?
Y	N	Do DHCP use an alcohol hand rub?
Y	N	Are hand hygiene procedures performed for the appropriate times?
Y	N	Are hand lotions available to prevent irritation dermatitis?

Processing and Sterilization of Patient - Care Items

Y	N	Is there equipment for sterilization; What type(s):?
Y	N	Are the manufacturer's guidelines followed for sterilizer maintenance?
Υ	N	Is there a central instrument processing area available for the office?
Y	N	Does anyone working in this area receive training on how to use the equipment?
Υ	N	Is visible blood and other debris removed before sterilization?
Y	N	Are appropriate gloves used to clean instruments?
Y	N	Is the ultrasonic unit tested periodically?
Y	N	Are instruments wrapped before sterilization?
Υ	N	Is the sterilizer loaded such that sterilant reaches all package surfaces?
Y	N	Is sterilization equipment properly monitored and records maintained?
Υ	N	If a spore test comes back positive are all records of mechanical and chemical indicators reviewed, as well as sterilization procedures, to determine if there was operator error?
Y	N	Are implantable devices sterilized before use?
Υ	N	Are handpieces cleaned, sterilized, and lubricated between patients?
Y	N	Are all sterilized wrapped instrument packages inspected to ensure they have not been compromised?
Υ	N	Are single-use disposable items used for one patient only?

*DHCP = Dental Health Care Professionals



Infection Control Check-Up John A. Molinari, Ph.D., Peri Nelson, B.S.

Post - Patient Treatment

Patient Treatment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Environmental Surface Asepsis Are gloves, appropriate to treatment, available in sizes required? Are surface barriers used to protect clinic contact surfaces, especially those that are Do DHCP wear appropriate eye protection? Are surface barriers changed between patients? Do DHCP change masks between patients? Do DHCP use PPE when cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces? Do DHCP wear protective clothing and change when necessary? Is the appropriate contact time used for surface sprays and wipes? Is protective clothing removed before leaving office, or laundered on site? Are housekeeping surfaces cleaned on a regular basis? Are gloves removed and changed between patients? Are appropriate levels of masks available for the variety of aerosol- and spatter-Dental Unit Waterlines producing procedures performed? Is there a written policy or procedure to improve dental water quality? Parenteral Medications Are regular waterline maintenance procedures followed to reduce the concentration of microoganisms to meet CDC and ADA water recommendations? Are single-dose medications and devices used for one patient only and disposed of appropriately? Have the manufacturers' recommended guidelines for equipment been followed? Is the water and air flushed for 20-30 seconds after each patient? Oral Surgical Procedures Is water quality monitored, according to manufacturer's recommendations for products Do DHCP wear sterile surgeon's gloves and use sterile irrigation during procedures? Is sterile water or saline used for invasive procedures? Dental Laboratory Medical Waste and Extracted Teeth Are DHCP using PPE when handling items received in the laboratory? Is an appropriate waste management plan in place for handling and disposal of contaminated and medical waste? Are impressions disinfected before going to the lab? Does disposal of regulated medical waste follow federal, state, and local regulations? Are extracted teeth disposed of as regulated medical waste or sterilized and returned to the patient?