

DARTMOUTH DENTAL PRACTICE

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Document Review	
Tuesday, 3 December 2019	This table added and document reviewed prior to publication on website
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Protocol for selecting new equipment

When it is necessary to purchase new equipment for the practice, the following protocol will be followed to ensure that

- the purchase is necessary and that other devices already available in the practice would not be suitable
- the new equipment will be appropriate and will achieve what is expected
- where relevant, the recommended decontamination processes are available within the practice.

For each new item of equipment, the following questions should be asked:

General

- What is the equipment for?
- Will the equipment selected be fit for this purpose?
- Is it compatible with other equipment in the surgery?
- How easy will it be to use and maintain?
- Is it CE marked (a mandatory requirement to demonstrate compliance with Medical Devices Regulations)?
- Does the instrument have a limited life-cycle specified by the manufacturer?
- Select foot controlled equipment whenever possible.
- Is training required? Will the manufacturer provide it?
- What are the commissioning and validation requirements of the equipment?
- What are the ongoing costs?
- Service response – what is the response time in the event of a breakdown?

Decontamination

- What are the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning and will they be achievable in practice?
- When selecting new hand instruments, avoid difficult to clean serrated handles and check that hinges are easy to clean.
- Does the instrument need dismantling before cleaning? Are there instructions from the manufacturer describing how this can be done?

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- Will the instrument withstand automated washer-disinfector processes?
- Are specific cleaning agents recommended – do they comply with COSHH and health and safety requirements? Are these cleaning agents compatible with the washer-disinfector, ultrasonic cleaner and instruments already in use in the practice?
- Is steam sterilisation (134–137°C for three minutes) appropriate for the instruments? If another time-temperature range is recommended, can this be undertaken?
- For dental chair coverings and work surfaces, check with the manufacturer which cleaning agents are recommended and ensure that they can be regularly decontaminated without deterioration.

Single-use (disposable) items

Whenever feasible, single-use items will be considered as an alternative to purchasing reusable items. Where instruments and equipment can be processed for re-use, the manufacturer's information on effective decontamination procedures will be followed. Single-use means that a device can be used on a single patient during one treatment session and then discarded. It must not be reprocessed and used again – even on the same patient at a later session.