

DARTMOUTH DENTAL PRACTICE

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Devon

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Cross Infection Control Procedure (a copy of this procedure to be kept in each surgery)

What is cross infection?

Cross infection is the transfer of infection from one person to another, whether by contact from patient to staff or via contaminated objects.

Nominated Individual

Marian Roberts is the nominated person with responsibility and authority to ensure that all staff comply with the medical device procedure.

What are the major cross infection hazards in dentistry?

- **HIV** is carried in the blood.
- **Hepatitis B and C and the Herpes Virus** are all carried in blood & saliva.
- **Mumps and Rubella** are carried in saliva.
- **Syphilis** is carried by touch.

How do we go about establishing a daily routine in the dental surgery to combat cross infection?

At the start of the day or session

- 1 Fill autoclave reservoir with distilled water and run the autoclave for a complete cycle. Record the sterilization print outs in the autoclave logbook.
- 2 Fill ultrasonic bath with disinfectant solution & water to aid in the removal of infection from contaminated instruments.
- 3 Medical devices that may be used during the session for procedures should be visually checked prior to use to ensure they are fit for purpose. Defective devices should be discarded and then either maintained in accordance with the manufacturers instructions or disposed of. Medical devices that need routine service and repair should be decontaminated and then either returned to the manufacturer or set aside for a specialist to maintain or repair.

Before Patient Treatment

- 1 Wipe down hand pieces with disinfectant wipes & clean around tray area as well as the light. (Any area that may come into contact with infection during a dental procedure).
- 2 Place disposable shields over all hand pieces, light handles, aspirator tubes, x-ray equipment, intra-oral camera, light key unit, ultrasonic scaler & headrest.
- 3 Pre set appropriate instruments onto a disinfected instrument tray lined with tray liner & cover to keep sterile. Place tray on bracket table.

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- 4 Set out all materials & essential instruments that will be used during the treatment course. (This avoids unnecessary entry into draws or cabinets enabling us to reduce the risk of cross infection).
- 5 Set out clean mouthwash for patient.

During Patient Treatment

- 1 Treat all patients as potentially infectious.
- 2 Wear gloves, masks, protective eye-wear & protective clothing.
- 3 Provide eye protection for patient.
- 4 Wash hands before gloving. (A new pair of gloves must be used for each patient & replaced if damaged).
- 5 Use rubber dam to isolate when appropriate.
- 6 Use high-volume aspiration when chair side.
- 7 Ensure good general ventilation of the treatment area. (Air conditioning systems that recycle air are not recommended).
- 8 Using pre-dispensed amalgam capsules greatly reduces the risk to health.
- 9 Handle sharps carefully & only re-sheath needles using a suitable device.
- 10 Be aware of surfaces touched during procedures to limit the spread of infection. If necessary remove used gloves, wash hands & reapply clean gloves.

After Patient Treatment

- 1 Dispose of sharps (needles, scalpels, broken instruments) via the sharps container.
- 2 Dispose of clinical waste in the labeled clinical waste sacks.
- 3 Clean & inspect all instruments using an autoclavable wire brush making sure all deposits are removed before placing instruments into the ultrasonic bath.
- 4 Sterilize cleaned instruments using an autoclave making sure hand pieces are adequately oiled & placed in sterilize pouches.
- 5 Clean & disinfect all work surfaces & areas that have come into contact with sources of infection including the removal of used disposable shields.
- 6 Clean & disinfect impressions using the sterilizing solution provided (read manufacturers instructions) before sending to the laboratory with contamination certificate.
- 7 Prepare surgery for next patient (see 'before patient treatment').

At The End Of Each Session

- 1 Dispose of all clinical waste from the surgery area into the yellow clinical sacks provided ready for collection.
- 2 Make sure all hazardous waste (sharps etc) are stored away.

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- 3 Clean & disinfect all work surfaces thoroughly.
- 4 Disinfect the aspirator & its tubing using appropriate cleaning solution.
- 5 Disinfect the spittoon making sure the filter is clear of any substances.
- 6 Clean the chair and the dental delivery unit.
- 7 Drain the autoclave reservoir to remove all residual water & leave to dry.
- 8 Empty & clean ultrasonic bath & leave to dry.
- 9 Make sure all instruments are covered & equipment packed away.
- 10 Sweep all floor surfaces & clean with disinfectant solution.
- 11 Defective medical devices should be discarded and then either maintained in accordance with the manufacturers instructions or disposed of. Medical devices that need routine service and repair should be decontaminated and then either returned to the manufacturer or set aside for a specialist to maintain or repair.