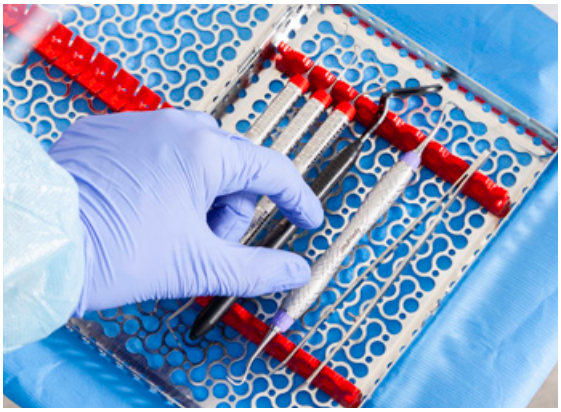
CASE STUDY

SHARPS INJURIES HURT
How to Eliminate the Pain



Dental facilities of all sizes need to make safety, consistency, and efficiency a top priority. It's critical to delivering the best patient experience and most stable business model. For one dental facility, success came from a strategic partnership with HuFriedyGroup.

This dental facility paid close attention to the safety of their clinical team. Proper safety etiquette and compliance is at the forefront of each of their offices – even one sharps injury is considered one too many.

Sharps injuries put staff at risk of being exposed to infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. These injuries also carry a significant cost. Between the time off, medical testing, and insurance, post-exposure management costs a practice up to $3,000 per incident.[1] Finding a way to minimize the risk of sharps injuries is a top priority for this organization.

Sharp Injuries Eliminated

After switching to IMS™ Cassettes, there were zero incidents of sharps injuries.

Cleaning instruments by hand increases the risk of sharps injury, as approximately 31% occur during cleaning.[2] With IMS™ Cassettes, instruments are contained throughout the sterilization process, which dramatically lowers the risk of occupational exposure. The only time staff has direct contact with any instrument is in the operatory with patients.

Greater Efficiency

Because instruments are not scrubbed, sorted and pouched manually, instruments were reprocessed eight minutes faster with IMS™ Cassettes.

The extra time the IMS™ Cassettes give the team members throughout the day adds up. They can spend more one-on-one time with patients, building relationships, explaining treatment plans, and ensuring they are 100% comfortable.

Protects Instruments

IMS™ Cassettes keep instruments organized and in proper cleaning positions, which helps the offices protect their investment in instruments.

Without IMS™ Cassettes, instruments are more frequently damaged during reprocessing or lost, which means offices buy new instruments more often. With IMS™ Cassettes, the instruments are held securely in place throughout reprocessing. This means the staff spends less time looking for lost instruments and replacing damaged ones.

Faster Onboarding

The streamlined setup of the IMS™ Cassettes makes training new assistants significantly faster.

Every instrument has a specific spot within the IMS™ Cassettes, and the color-coded system allows procedural setups to be easily identified. When new assistants come into the dental office, they can quickly locate what is needed and feel confident it has all the necessary instruments.

"The patients are always the first priority for anything that we do," said the purchasing manager. "If it helps doctors build relationships with patients while also helping the leads at the same time, that's a win-win for everyone."

> "Sharps injuries were eliminated & also the time it took to process instruments went down by eight minutes."
>
> Compliance Manager

HuFriedyGroup
The Best In Practice

> The efficiency of having cassettes raises the bar for our dental offices.
>
> Compliance Manager

Instrument Management Cycle

The IMS™ Cassettes keep instruments organized and protected throughout the facility. This allows clinicians to move instruments from chairside to cleaning to sterilization to storage without touching the instruments. This helps to improve efficiency, safety, compliance, organization, standardization, and instrument protection.

Efficiency

IMS eliminates time-consuming steps to streamline reprocessing, which can save practices an hour or more each day.

Safety & Compliance

IMS minimizes how often contaminated instruments are handled, improving compliance during transportation and reprocessing while also reducing the risk of a costly sharps injury.

Organization

IMS helps practices better organize their reprocessing flow, freeing up to seven linear feet of counterspace, so they can maximize the space in their sterilization area.

When coupled with the use of organizational tubs for procedural disposables, efficiency and organization are greatly improved as procedure needs are easily identified for quick patient set up.

Instrument Protection

IMS keeps instruments safe and held in place throughout reprocessing, which protects the integrity of the instruments and reduces the chance they are lost or damaged while keeping them spaced out for an optimal environment for proper reprocessing.

Standardization

IMS helps facilities create a system for managing their procedural setups. Each setup includes all of the instruments that are needed to help with onboarding and standardizing care throughout a single practice and even across multiple locations.

Return on Investment

IMS can make an immediate impact on a practice's bottom line, with the time saved allowing them to see new patients and bring in tens of thousands of dollars in new revenue.

> My assistants are happier. My providers are happier. My patients are happier. We have all fallen in love with these cassettes.
>
> Dental Practitioner

1) CDC, "Sharps Injury Prevention Workbook," available at www.cdc.gov/Sharpssafety/pdf/WorkbookComplete.pdf, p.6
2) Younai, F., Murphy, D., Kotelchuck, D. (2001). Occupational Exposures to Blood in a Dental Teaching Environment: Results of a Ten-Year Surveillance Study.

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