

KEEPING PATIENTS SAFE



Preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases is very important in the dental community. By implementing recommended cleaning, sterilization and other infection prevention measures, dental facilities greatly reduce the risk of patients contracting any type of infectious disease.

UNDERSTANDING INFECTION PREVENTION



STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state dental boards have thorough guidelines and recommendations to help dental offices create a safe environment for patients and staff.



INSTRUMENT AND DEVICE SAFETY

The CDC has specific guidelines for how facilities keep instruments safe for use with patients. This includes the critical steps of receiving, cleaning, and decontaminating; preparing and packaging; sterilization; and storage of dental instruments. All of these help to control quality and ensure safety.



HAND HYGIENE

Good hand hygiene is the first and best defense against healthcare-associated infections. The CDC has recommended hand hygiene protocols for hand washing, disinfection, and moisturizing throughout the day and between patient visits to help prevent the spread of disease.



CLEAN SURFACES

The dental office is filled with surfaces that can be easily contaminated throughout the day, such as light switches, handles, countertops, chairs, and door knobs. These surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected or covered with barriers that are changed between patients.



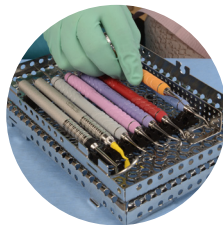
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

It's important that both patients and staff have no exposure or contact with diseases during treatment. Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, clothing, and face and eye protection, helps prevent cross contamination or injuries from spray, splatter, and small particles.



WATER QUALITY

Water is a key element in dental treatment. Cleaning and treating waterlines is a critical step to ensure the quality meets the high standards the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has set for acceptable drinking water.



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