Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care

MODULE 1 — Introduction
Modules in the Slide Series

1. Introduction (this module)
2. Hand Hygiene
3. Personal Protective Equipment
4. Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
5. Sharps Safety
6. Safe Injection Practices
7. Sterilization and Disinfection of Patient-Care Items and Devices
8. Environmental Infection Prevention and Control
9. Dental Unit Water Quality
10. Program Evaluation
Importance of Infection Prevention in Dentistry

- Both patients and dental health care personnel (DHCP) can be exposed to disease-causing organisms.
- Contact with blood, oral and respiratory secretions, and contaminated equipment occurs.
- Proper procedures can prevent transmission of infections among patients and DHCP.
Bloodborne viruses such as hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV):

• Are transmissible in health care settings.
• Can produce chronic infection.
• Are often carried by persons unaware of their infection.
Potential Routes of Bloodborne Pathogens

• Patient to DHCP
  – Highest Risk
• DHCP to Patient
• Patient to Patient
Standard Precautions

• Primary way to prevent transmission of infectious agents.
• MUST be used in the care of all patients, regardless of their infection status.
• Elements include:
  – Hand hygiene.
  – Using personal protective equipment.
  – Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.
  – Sharps safety, including engineering and work practice controls.
  – Safe injection practices.
  – Sterilization and disinfection of instruments and devices.
  – Cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces.
Transmission-Based Precautions

- Some patients require additional measures: transmission-based precautions.
- Second tier of infection prevention.
- Always used **in addition** to standard precautions to interrupt the spread of certain pathogens.
- Three categories:
  - Airborne.
  - Droplet (larger than 5 microns).
  - Contact.
- More than one transmission category may apply.
Administrative Measures

• Make infection prevention a priority in all dental settings.
• Assign at least one person as the infection control coordinator.
• Tailor policies to each dental setting.
• Reassess on a regular basis (e.g., annually).
Infection Prevention Education and Training

- Critical to ensure that infection prevention practices are understood and consistently followed.
- Provide job or task-specific education and training
  - Upon hire for all new staff.
  - When new tasks or procedures are introduced.
  - At least annually.
- Include both DHCP and patient safety.
Dental Health Care Personnel Safety

• Immunizations.
• Exposure prevention and postexposure management.
• Medical condition management and work-related illnesses and restrictions.
• Health record maintenance.
Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care

• Summary of basic infection prevention expectations for safe care in all dental settings.
• Supplements existing CDC recommendations (not a replacement).
• Based on standard precautions.
• Links to references and additional resources.

Source: Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines & Recommendations
Summary Objectives

• Provides basic infection prevention principles and recommendations for dental health care settings.

• Reaffirms standard precautions as the foundation for preventing transmission of infectious agents during patient care in all dental health care settings.

• Provides links to full guidelines and source documents that readers can reference for more detailed background information and recommendations.
Summary Contents

• Introduction and objectives.
• Fundamental elements needed to prevent transmission of infectious agents in dental settings.
• Risk assessment.
• Conclusions.
• Source documents.
• Appendices.
Appendices

• Appendix A: Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care
  – Section I: Policies and Practices
  – Section II: Direct Observation of Personnel and Patient-Care Practices

• Appendix B: Relevant Recommendations Published by CDC Since 2003

• Appendix C: Selected References and Additional Resources by Topic Area
Additional Resources

• In addition to the summary document, the following resources are available:
  – Separate printable version of the Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings.
  – Fillable PDF format of the Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings.
  – Mobile App version of the Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings.
  – Compendium document: *Recommendations from the Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings – 2003*

• All documents are available on the DOH website:
  – Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines & Recommendations
Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings

Checklist to evaluate compliance with infection prevention practices

- Section 1: Policies and Practices
- Section 2: Direct Observation of Personnel and Patient-Care Practices

Source: Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines & Recommendations
Electronic Fillable Checklist

Source: Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines & Recommendations
CDC DentalCheck—Mobile App

- Interactive version of the Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings.
- Available for all mobile iOS and Android compatible devices.
- Free download at the iTunes App and Google Play Stores.
CDC DentalCheck Key Features

- Allows users to check Yes or No to acknowledge adherence with a list of administrative policies or observed practices.
- Provides basic infection prevention principles and recommendations for dental health care settings.
- Allows users ability to export results for records management.
- Provides links to full guidelines and source documents that users can reference for more detailed background and recommendations.
### Compendium Document

### Recommendations for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003

**Source:** Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines & Recommendations

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#### Table: Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Level of Recommendation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. General Recommendations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.1</td>
<td>Strongly recommended for implementation</td>
<td>Strongly supported by well-designed experimental, clinical, or epidemiologic studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.2</td>
<td>Strongly recommended for implementation</td>
<td>Supported by experimental, clinical, and epidemiologic studies, and a strong theoretical rationale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.3</td>
<td>Required for implementation as mandated by federal state regulation or standard</td>
<td>When IC is used, a second tier can be included to provide the basis for meeting scientific, legal, theoretical, and administrative considerations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.4</td>
<td>Supported for implementation</td>
<td>Based on the absence of IC in all healthcare settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Education and Training</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.1</td>
<td>(for all health care personnel)</td>
<td>Provide pre-operative and post-operative training in infection control practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.2</td>
<td>(for all health care personnel)</td>
<td>Designate pre-operative and post-operative training in infection control practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.3</td>
<td>(for all health care personnel)</td>
<td>Establish an educational program to ensure effective implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. Personal Health Elements of an Infection Control Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C.1</td>
<td>(for all health care personnel)</td>
<td>Establish an educational program to ensure effective implementation.</td>
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**MODULE 1 — Introduction**
Conclusion

• Infection prevention must be a priority in all dental settings.
• Reports from dental settings are rare.
• Transmissions that occurred were likely the result of lack of compliance.
• Standard precautions remain the major infection prevention strategy to prevent transmissions.
• CDC tools and resources can help DHCP with compliance.
Resources

- CDC. *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003*
- CDC. *Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care*
- Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention. *Interactive Online Article – Understanding CDC’s Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings*
- Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention. *New CDC Tool for Dentistry webinar*
End of Module 1

For more information, contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY:1-888-232-6348

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC.