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 Pathogens

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 Patient
- Patient to DHCP
- DHCP 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.
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).
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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.