

Guideline for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings, 2003

Summary

Guideline for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings, 2003 consolidates recommendations for the prevention and control of infectious diseases and the management of personnel health and safety issues related to infection control in dental settings. This document: 1) updates and revises previous recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding infection control for dental settings; 2) incorporates relevant infection control measures from several other CDC guidelines; and 3) discusses several issues not addressed in previous CDC recommendations for dentistry. These updates and additional topics include the following:

- The term “Standard Precautions” rather than “Universal Precautions”;
- Work restrictions for health-care personnel occupationally exposed to or infected with infectious diseases (Appendix 3);
- Management of occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens, including post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for work exposures to HIV or hepatitis B or C;
- Selection and use of devices with features engineered to prevent sharps injury;
- Hand hygiene products and surgical hand antisepsis;
- Contact dermatitis and latex hypersensitivity;
- Limitations of flash sterilization;
- Dental water quality issues including: dental unit waterline biofilms; the need to deliver water for patient care of acceptable biological quality; usefulness of flushing waterlines; use of sterile irrigating solutions for oral surgical procedures; advice for community boil-water advisories;
- Dental radiology;
- Aseptic technique for parenteral medications;
- Pre-procedural mouth rinsing for patients;
- Oral surgical procedures;
- Laser/Electrosurgery Plumes;
- Tuberculosis;
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and other prion-related diseases;
- Program evaluation; and
- Research considerations.