Benefits of a fully integrated digital workflow – clinical focus

How digital impressions will help you rebuild: As we all try to find ways to bounce back from COVID-19, could digital dental impressions be just the boost your practice needs?

By Dentsply Sirona

As dental professionals across the country plan a tentative path out of lockdown, many are looking for new ways to deliver dental care. New guidelines have forced practices to operate in a different way, but forward-thinking dentists are seeing these adjustments as an opportunity to bring about change for the better.

New guidelines have forced practices to operate in a different way, but forward-thinking dentists are looking for new ways to deliver dental care. Thoughtful planning, keeping chair time to a minimum, and anything that achieves this and makes procedures more efficient, is extremely valuable. Digital impressions do both, and also deliver a substantial amount of business-building potential. So, what’s not to like?

More efficient, more hygienic, more comfortable

Digital impressions can be taken with a PrimeScan intraoral scanner in a matter of seconds. Simply use the sleek scanner wand, which comes with a choice of removable sleeves (autoclave, wipe-down and single-use), to sweep around the mouth, capturing outstanding quality digital scans in less time than it would take to prepare for and take a traditional impression.

The digital impression is saved as a high definition, 3D image within the CAD/CAM software, whilst the patient is in the chair for considerably less time than for conventional impressions, and the whole experience is far more comfortable.

Key, amongst the long list of priorities in this new COVID-19 era, is keeping chair time to a minimum, so anything that achieves this and makes procedures more efficient, is extremely valuable. Digital impressions do both, and also deliver a substantial amount of business-building potential. So, what’s not to like?

Access all areas

Once captured, digital impressions open up access to a range of efficient, income-generating workflows that are much easier to achieve than using traditional methods.

For instance, you can offer patients clear aligner treatment through digitally-enabled services such as SureSmile Aligner treatment. Clear aligner treatments such as this have soared in popularity recently and offering this service will help keep your patients loyal and ensure you are responding positively to patients’ demands.

Add a chairside milling unit to your workflow and you have opened the door to a whole new world of digital design and manufacture. Dentsply Sirona’s CEREC single visit restorative workflow creates fast, efficient single-tooth restorations, reducing the risk of cross-contamination and giving patients the safest, most comfortable experience possible, all achieved in a single visit. Additionally, it opens up new revenue streams, whilst containing costs within the practice.

Labs get digital

Even if you don’t want to move straight into a full digital workflow in your practice, digital impressions can still open up opportunities with other providers, one of the most important being your dental laboratory. More and more labs are now adopting digital processes and are able to receive digital impressions from dentists. The digital technologies also improve communication between clinician and technician, which is achieved via instant, efficient and secure software.

In a pre-COVID world, digital impressions were slowly gaining in popularity. Now, with the need to reduce patients’ time in practice and with infection control stakes much higher, intraoral scanners are becoming an essential tool for dentists who want to not only survive, but also thrive in the new world of dentistry.

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For more information about the full Dentsply Sirona portfolio, please contact your local representative.

Dentsply Sirona
21st Floor, The Bay Gate Tower
Business Bay, Al Sa’ada Street
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 (0)4 523 0600
Web: www.dentsplysirona.com
E-mail: MEA-Marketing@dentsplysirona.com

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