Infection control guidance

HTM 01-05 guidance requires that every practice should be capable of meeting the essential quality requirements. Dental Tribune rounds up some important points

Health Technical Memo

randum 01-05 is intended to progressively raise the quality of decontamination work in primary care dental services by covering the decontamination of reusable instruments within dental facilities.

Patients deserve to be treated in a safe and clean environment with consistent standards of care every time they receive treatment. It is essential that the risk of person-to-person transmission of infections be minimised as much as possible.

Here are some ways this can be done.

Essential quality requirements

• Regardless of the technology used, the cleaned instru-
ments, prior to sterilisation, should be free of visible con-
taminants when inspected. Instruments should be re-
processed using a validated decontamination cycle in-
cluding: cleaning/washing; a validated steam steriliser, and
at the end of the reprocessing cycle they should be in a ster-
ilised state.
• Reprocessed dental instru-
ments should be stored in such a way as to ensure restraint of
microbiological recolonisation. These measures should be
backed by careful controls on the storage times to which
instruments that are less fre-
quently used are subject.
• Practices should audit their decontamination processes
quarterly using an audit tool
(the use of the Infection Pre-
vention Society/DH audit tool
that accompanies this docu-
ment is strongly recom-
mended).
• Practices should have in place
a detailed plan on how the pro-
vision of decontamination
services will move towards
best practice.

Best practice

To demonstrate best practice, further improvements are re-
quired in three main areas:
• A cleaning process that should be carried out using a validated
automated washer-disinfector.
• The environment in which de-
contamination is carried out
should be such as to minimise
the risk of recontamination of
instruments and the possibility
of generating aerosols, which
may reach patients or unpro-
tected staff. For best practice,
the decontamination facilities
should be clearly separate from
the clinical treatment area. This
implies the use of a sepa-
rate room or rooms for the ac-
commodation of clean (output)
and dirty (input) work. In these
facilities, the room(s) should be
used for this purpose only and
access should be restricted to
those staff performing deconta-
mination duties. However,
plant and equipment not neces-
sarily used for decontamina-
tion may be located in these
rooms (but preferably in the
dirty room) provided it can rea-
sonably be shown that the de-
vices do not conflict with the re-
quirement for a clean environ-
ment.
• The storage of reprocessed
dental instruments in a sim-
ple but carefully designed fa-
cility clearly separate from
the clinical treatment area is
an important best practice
improvement. The facility
should take account of the
need to reduce recolonisa-
tion of sterilised instruments
and also make the identifica-
tion/selection of instruments
easy. This storage facility will
ordinarily be part of the clean
area within the decontamina-
tion room(s).

For a full report on the guidance, visit the Department of Health
website at www.dh.gov.uk.

Postgraduate Dental Education

New Course

MSc in Endodontics

Endodontic treatment is one of the most technically demanding
procedures in general dental practice. Growing demand from
patients for teeth to be saved rather than extracted has presented
a need for further training in this area. The Postgraduate
Dental Education Unit (PGDEU) at Warwick Medical School has
developed a new MSc in Endodontics to deliver comprehensive
and flexible endodontic education.

The MSc in Endodotics has been designed to develop your knowledge
and confidence in this complex discipline, enabling you to deliver a high
quality service. As a part-time course spread over 3-5 years, it offers you
the flexibility to continue working in clinical practice while studying.
You will study a wide range of topics from sterilisation and disinfection
procedures to tissue regeneration and preventing cross infections.

The closing date for applications is 15th October 2009.
Applicants should be registered with the General Dental Council
and have full professional indemnity insurance.

Contact Anne Duhig-Reader for further information,
quoting reference code: C0908F3

† +44 (o) 24 7657 4640
dentists@warwick.ac.uk
www.warwick.ac.uk/go/dentistry

The PGDEU also offers: MSc Orthodontics, MSc Lingual Orthodontics, MSc Implant Dentistry and a range of short courses.
Safer Handpieces from Bien-Air

To help prevent the risk of cross-infection the Bien-Air Nunix quick-connect couplings are supplied with a non-return valve, designed to prevent infection through the exhaust line. Bien-Air turbines already have a non-return valve incorporated into the water line in the handle of the instrument, but this additional valve provides even more ‘security’.

The Bien-Air range of instruments are designed with safety as a major requirement. All instruments are autoclavable and/or can be cleaned and disinfected to the highest criteria.

SPRAYNET 500 is perfect for cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces and hoses. The surfaces and grip of the handpieces are easily cleaned; screws are concealed to avoid possible areas where debris and germs can accumulate; cleanliness has always been a feature of Switzerland and this has become integral with the design of instruments all of which are manufactured to European Standards. Bien-Air is confident that they provide the highest standards of safety.

For further information please contact Bien-Air on 01506 711 505 or visit www.bienair.com

Topdental

Topdental are a leading specialist provider of every day dental sundries and disposable dental products. The current Summer 2009 offer sheet offers a FREE Digital Photo Frame with remote on all orders over £190 exc vat.

The issue 2 catalogue is now available to order, featuring over 1,000 commonly used items, it is packed full of money saving products and special bulk purchase offers. All products featured come with a full 100% money back guarantee.

Topdental also manufacture a range of infection control chemicals, which cover all requirements in a typical dental surgery environment. Items such as water line treatments are available at competitive prices.

As well as being able to place your order from the comprehensive catalogue, you can also order online at www.topdental.org, you will receive a 5% discount on all on-line orders.

The catalogue also includes over 100 new products including uniforms, Topdental are the leading uniform manufacturer over 100 new products including uniforms, Topdental are the leading uniform manufacturer. Topdental are the leading uniform manufacturer. For our latest prices, full cross infection range and advice please call 0800 585 586 or visit www.topdental.co.uk.

Tough Infection Control with The Dental Directory

With the release of the updated HTM 01-05 government guidelines and the outbreak of the Swine Flu H1N1 Virus, never before has eliminating the risk of cross infection been so at the forefront of your mind and so paramount for your dental practice.

Following the announcement of the World Health Organisation’s move to pandemic phase 6 and the number of confirmed cases within the UK rising to 7,447* from Swine Flu (ATCC-VR-1469), Swine Flu, the necessity to follow best practice guidelines and use tested products to prevent spread of infection and decontamination is clearly evermore paramount.

Some of The Dental Directory’s range of own label Classic products have been tested as effective against H1N1 Human Influenza Virus (ATCC-VR-1469), Swine Flu. Our Classic Hard Surface Disinfectant Spray is for rapid disinfection of hard surfaces and is available in 500ml trigger spray bottle (GSC 500) and 5 litre refill (GSC 505).

*As of 6th July 2009, www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu

For our latest prices, full cross infection range and advice please call 0800 585 586 or visit www.topdental.co.uk.

ChairSafe - alcohol and alcohol free foam for quick disinfection and cleaning of surfaces

ChairSafe is the new disinfectant foam cleaner from the Kemdent range of cross infection control products. ChairSafe foam is specially formulated to clean sensitive surfaces and equipment, including the leather and synthetic facings of dental chairs. As soon as you try it you will recognise the real benefit of this product.

ChairSafe is an aerosol and alcohol free foam that is suitable, not only for alcohol sensitive materials such as leather, acrylic glass and vinyl but also hard surfaces, inventory and medical products. It is effective against HBV/HIV/HCV/BVDV/ vaccinia, bacterial and fungicial microorganisms within one minute of application.

Kemdent customers require high quality, value for money products. This foam provides all dental professionals and their patients with the highest possible level of protection. Because its non-drip, it is also economical to use.

For further information on special offers or to place orders call Jackie or Helen on 01795 770256 or visit our website www.kemdent.co.uk.

BioSonic UC125

Proven Coltène/Whaledent quality with additional customized operation!

Cross Contamination procedures are an extremely important aspect of the dental surgery so Coltene Whaledent is pleased to launch the new BioSonic Ultrasonic Cleaning Unit 125 which delivers a variety of customized options. The cleaning time cycle can be selected individually, a countdown timer is available to inform the user with the amount of cleaning time remaining, and indicate exactly when the instruments will be ready for sterilisation. The new unit is equipped with a solution tracking function to inform the user how long the solution has been in use, so that mandatory changing of the cleaning solution will not be forgotten. With a simple touch of a button, gassing of the solution, i.e. air

For further information please contact BioSonic on 01306 711 303 or visit www.biosonic.com.