Getting ahead

It’s too easy to get stuck in a rut and lose the direction of your practice, says Jonathan Wood, who offers some simple solutions to help you move forward.

The Regulations

Paragraphs 19.1 – 19.68 in Section 3 of HTM 01-05 are specifically focused on control of legionella in Dental Practices and Paragraphs 8.75 to 8.99 address Dental Unit Water Lines as well. Practices must also comply with the Health & Safety Commission’s Approved Code of Practice (L8) on the control of legionella bacteria in Water Systems.

The Risks

Dental Unit Water Lines are an ideal environment for microorganisms as they attach themselves to the tubing, forming a layer of biofilm. As the water in DUWL’s often becomes stagnant at the end of sessions or over a weekend it can also act as a reservoir for microorganisms to flourish.

The Problem

Dental Unit Water Lines are an ideal environment for microorganisms, as they attach themselves to the tubing, forming a layer of biofilm. As the water in DUWL’s often becomes stagnant at the end of sessions or over a weekend it can also act as a reservoir for microorganisms to flourish.

The Solution

Continu Alcohol Free Disinfectant for Dental Unit Water Lines has been specifically designed to strip away biofilm. What’s more, with a kill rate of 99.9998%, it prevents colonies reforming and, with its residual decontamination effect, it continues working for several days after application.

The Results

Case studies often show high levels of microbial presence particularly in water bottles, tubing and hand pieces, which are eliminated after applying Continu. Readings remain below recommended levels for up to 10 days even without further treatment, and a weekly disinfection regime with Continu maintains the DUWL above required standards.

Microbiological Monitoring

By using an ATP meter that accurately measures the presence of micro-organisms, Nuview is able to provide a quick and verifiable assessment of cleanliness, along with a set of results that can be used to establish trends over a period of time.

Continu – the next generation of ultra-effective, ultra-safe and environmentally friendly HTM 01-05 compliant anti-microbial disinfectants.

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Does your legionella control comply with HTM 01-05 and the Health & Safety Commission’s Code of Practice?

Your vision – your plan

To get the process started, ask yourself how, in an ideal world, would your practice be run? If you have difficulty, a professional coach can assist with this exercise, don’t be one of the many people I hear saying, ‘if only I’d been helped to do this at the start of my career!’

The whole team must have a clear understanding of the values and brand of your business and what the expected customer experience is. By having team meetings, your expectations can be laid out and staff members will have the opportunity to raise any issues or anxieties that they have with regards to the direction that the practice is moving in. Whenever I have done this in my own practice, outside assistance has always proved invaluable.

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