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 6.75 to 6.99 address Dental Unit Water Lines as well. Practices must also comply with the Health & Safety Commission’s Approved Code of Practice (LC8) on the control of legionella bacteria in Water Systems.

The solution

Continu Alcool Free Disinfectent 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.

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.

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

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 water quality. They also report 2 studies which found legionella presence ranging from 6% to 25% in dental environments.

The problem

Dental Unit Water Lines are an ideal environment for micro-organisms 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 micro-organisms to flourish.

The risks

Dental Unit Water Lines are an ideal environment for micro-organisms and for sufferers of Waterborne Infections. Could your practice be at risk of contaminated DUWL’s? Many professional organisations including the British Dental Association and the British Standards Institute (BSI) have recommended that dental practices should ensure the health and safety of patients and staff by minimizing the risk of infection from DUWLs.

The solutions

Nuview’s Continu has been designed to strip away biofilm from DUWL’s and is used to establish trends over a 10-day period, monitoring DUWL’s from a wide range of dental practices. It has been used in nearly 300 practices and has been thoroughly tested to demonstrate that if used in conjunction with the procedures described in HTM 01-05 it is able to eliminate legionella from the water supply and ensure that it does not reform. It is also a simple and cost-effective solution.

The results

Reassuringly, the results collected from the use of Continu are very encouraging. Continu has been used in nearly 300 dental practices, performed over 10 days and monitored in three separate phases, and demonstrated the following: it can maintain the DUWL’s water quality for a minimum of 10 days even without further treatment, and a weekly disinfection regime with Continu maintains the DUWL water quality. It also prevents the presence of legionella, as well as other harmful organisms.

In some instances, these practitioners decide simply to accept that the turnover is as good as it can be and instead launch into an overhead cost-cutting exercise. Unfortunately, this is totally counter-productive. Not only does it generally reduce the likelihood of turnover increasing, it also lowers staff morale and therefore affects potential earnings.

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