

Infection Control Policy

Preparing to Work

- A separate work area shall be set aside in the laboratory to receive all incoming work. This is situated next to the fully operational sink with hot and cold running water and adequate drainage. If there is not space, make sure that after dealing with all incoming work the surface of the work area is thoroughly disinfected before commencing with preparing outgoing work for postage or delivery.
- Ensure adequate and regular ventilation to prevent any lingering odours or fumes.
- Under no circumstances shall the person handling incoming work be interrupted by unrelated tasks because of the danger of contaminating other items and the possibility of missing an incoming item or disinfecting it incorrectly.
- Under no circumstances should the person treating incoming work handle outgoing work at the same time. There is a risk that cross infection may occur, and the work being returned to the surgery will be contaminated.
- Under no circumstances should the person carrying out this work, eat, drink or smoke whilst processing this incoming work.
- Before handling any of the incoming work from the surgery or from the public, staff should ensure that they are wearing appropriate protective equipment and clothing including goggles, gloves, and a waterproof apron.

Preparing the Work Area

- The workbench should be wiped down with disinfectant at the beginning and end of each workday. Available on all work benches are the following:
 - Disinfectant
 - Suitable containers with lids - to place impressions in disinfectant solution.
 - A pair of suitable plastic tongs to handle the impressions or other items in the disinfection solution.
 - A timer, so that disinfection times are easily monitored and adhered to.

Opening Work and Preparing for Disinfection

- Only ever open and handle work from the surgery when wearing full protective equipment and clothing - goggles, gloves, and plastic apron.
- Tag and mark the items with appropriate identification prior to being disinfected so that they will be returned to the correct pan after having been disinfected and rinsed.
- Discard all wrappings, packing material etc - and anything that has been in contact with the impression as contaminated Clinical Waste, unless otherwise identified.

Disinfecting

- Although it is the duty of the dental surgery to disinfect impressions prior to sending them to the laboratory, if there is any doubt, always re-disinfect - you have a duty to protect the health and safety of yourself and other members of staff.
- Rinse the impressions etc under running tap water. Do not use a sink with a plaster trap in it.
- Items should be placed in the disinfection solution by using suitable plastic tongs provided. Use a timer to note how long the impression has been in the solution for.
- Place the lid on the container to control the fumes from the disinfecting solutions which can be unpleasant and may cause irritation to the eyes. **Do not mix bleach with any materials containing ammonia or alcohol.**

Cross Infection Control in Production Areas

- All work benches, sinks and model trimmers in the lab should be wiped down daily with a disinfection solution and vacuuming of dust around the building.
- Work pans should be cleaned after use and disinfected.
- All staff should not eat, drink, or smoke at the bench. Staff should be encouraged to practise strict hygiene. Anti-microbial soap is available in the toilet for washing hands.
- All cuts and lesions on hands should be immediately covered up with appropriate wound dressing.

Managing Tools/Equipment

- Change pumice on a regular basis and disinfect the pan holding the pumice before putting fresh pumice into it.
- Do not use the same pumice for new work and repair work.
- Always wear a dust/mist-type facemask and eye protection when operating a model trimmer, brush trimmer or rag wheel with pumice.
- Rag Wheels and brushes should be soaked for ten minutes after use and left to dry overnight.

Dealing With the Public

- Ensure hands are washed with bactericidal liquid soap.
- Gloves should be always worn when taking in work to be repaired or any shade matching and disposed of before commencing with further work.
- When accepting repair work the item should be disinfected immediately in a hypochlorite solution as used for disinfecting impressions.
- Ensure disinfection of any shade guides.

GDC Registrations

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