

Health Technical Memorandum 0105

Decontamination in primary care dental practice

Listed below are some helpful pointers to look at to help you and your Practice work towards 'best practice'.

- HTM 0105 to be sent out to all Dental Practices by the Department of health (DH). Although please follow link if you would like a copy in the meantime. www.dh.gov.uk
- Once your Practice has received a copy from the DH, Practices need to start implementing the requirements. The audit tool should be enclosed and should be used to assess decontamination in your Dental Practice.
- It is expected that by the end of the first year of the implementation of this guidance, all Dental Practices will be working at or above the essential quality requirements.

Provisional registration scheme

The Care Quality Commission will oversee the process. They will be responsible to ensure the requirements for registration are met. Effective management and self-audit will be strongly emphasised provisionally within the registration scheme as part of clinical governance criteria as defined in the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

Accommodation/space

- Expect building alterations if this is possible.
- If there is no way a decontamination room/s is feasible this must be clearly documented and available for Care Quality Commission.
- Everyone has to work towards best practice – safe responsible decontamination.
- Any new practices/premises opening from the publication date of the guidance will have to comply fully with best practice.
- Instruments should be cleaned prior to sterilisation and reprocessed using a validated washer disinfectant. Instruments should be stored correctly.
- Practices should use an audit tool quarterly for their decontamination process.
- Practices should have a plan to show how the provision of decontamination services will move towards best practice.
- Best practice may not be able to be met by all Practices at present, future plans need to be documented.
- Detailed infection control policies should be in place.
- Training will be met by attending Salford PCT or and other verifiable Dental Infection Control Training
- Clean/dirty room: Clean rooms/ areas can be used as storage.
- Ventilation: Positive and negative air pressure should flow taking the dirty air away from the clean area. Please get advice from a ventilation engineer, the correct filters must be fitted and changed at regular intervals.
- When planning and designing the decontamination room surfaces must be of good quality. Corian/stainless steel are good material to use.

A survey in England is planned for 2010/11 by the Care Quality Commission and will form an evidence base for the future.

Practice following all essential quality requirements.

Clean instruments prior to sterilisation.

Validated decontamination cycle: daily, weekly, quarterly and yearly testing on all decontamination equipment.

Written protocols/ procedures.

Reprocessed dental instruments storage – careful control - bagging instruments/21 day.

Audit decontamination ¼ - use audit tool.

Plan – services must move towards best practice.

Single decontamination rooms – clean and dirty areas must be clearly defined.

Instruments not to be stores in clinical area and stored in clean room/ area.

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