From Policy to Practice: OSAP's Interactive Guide to the CDC Guidelines Course Objectives

Primary Goal: The primary goal of this course is to assist users in preventing or reducing the potential transmission of diseases in dental practice settings using the principles of infection control.

The course has seven (7) modules. Following are the course objectives organized by module.

1. The Importance of Infection Control

The purpose of infection control is to break the chain of infection. We can do that in dentistry by following federal, state, local regulations, CDC Guidelines, and the four principles of infection control. It is our responsibility to be knowledgeable about infection control in order to create a safe environment for patients and staff. After completing this module, the learner should be able to:
- Describe the reasons why infection control is important.

2. Take Action to Stay Healthy

After completing this module, the learner should be able to:

- Identify personnel health elements of an infection control program.
- Explain why immunizations are important and what immunizations are needed for staff.
- Identify infectious diseases that require work restrictions and describe the CDC recommended work restrictions.
- Explain the use of different types of hand hygiene methods, and determine appropriate hand hygiene practices.
- Describe the difference between irritant and allergic contact dermatitis, and latex allergy.
- Identify products that contain latex and give an example of an alternative non-latex product.

3. Avoid Contact with Blood and Other Body Fluids

After completing this module, the learner should be able to:

- Identify bloodborne pathogens found in dentistry.
- Explain the difference between universal precautions and standard precautions.
- Define administrative controls and give an example.
- Define engineering controls and give an example.
- Name the components of personal protective equipment (PPE), and explain why and when PPE should be used.
- Define work practice controls and give an example.
- Explain exposure prevention and postexposure management.

4. Make Objects Safe for Use

After completing this module, the learner should be able to:

- Classify types of patient-care items.
- Define single-use or disposable items.
- Describe the sequence of steps in instrument processing.
- Differentiate the various methods and equipment of sterilization.
- Identify the methods of monitoring sterilization and what to do if there is a sterilization failure.
- Explain the potential of contamination in dental handpieces, and other devices attached to air and water lines.

5. Limit Contamination

After completing this module, the learner should be able to:

- Compare environmental infection control methods.
- Describe appropriate disposal procedures for regulated and non-regulated medical waste.
- Identify methods of maintaining and monitoring dental water quality.
- Explain the precautions to follow during a boil water advisory.

6. Special Considerations

After completing this module, the learner should be able to:

- Explain infection control for radiology procedures.
- Explain the potential for infection from parenteral medications and how to prevent it.
- Explain appropriate infection control to use during oral surgery procedures.
- Describe infection control procedures for biopsy specimens.
- Describe infection control procedures for extracted teeth.
- Describe infection control for laboratory procedures.
- Describe appropriate infection control procedures to use with patients with tuberculosis.

7. Program Evaluation

After completing this module, the learner should be able to:

- Explain why evaluation of an infection control program is essential.
- Describe evaluation activities that can assess the effectiveness of an infection control program.
- Discuss how the results of evaluation activities can be used to improve an infection control program.