With the variety of dental units and water treatment options available to dental practices, it is sometimes difficult to determine which device or method is best for a practice. These questions, when asked of the manufacturer or distributor, can help personnel gather information critical to the purchasing decision.

**Device Selection Questions**

1. Do dental units in the office have a system to provide water that meets the quality recommendations in the CDC guidelines (500 CFU/mL)?
2. What type of system is it, and how does it work?
   a. Independent reservoir
   b. Water filtration/conditioning system
   c. Intermittent chemical treatment
   d. Continuous chemical treatment
   e. Automated or passive device including antimicrobial tubing or reservoirs
3. Do you have written instructions on how to maintain the dental water system?
4. Do you recommend a specific water treatment agent or device for use with this unit?
5. Do you have written recommendations for monitoring water quality?
6. Can you provide test data or published studies that show that this unit can provide water that meets current CDC recommendations?
7. If the water treatment device is manufacturer provided, can you give an estimate of the annual cost of operation for the system?

**Treatment Product Questions**

1. Can this chemical agent or device help me ensure that water from dental unit will meet the current CDC guidelines?
2. What type of product is it, and how does it work?
   a. Germicidal chemical agent for intermittent (shock) treatment
   b. Germicidal chemical agent for continuous (maintenance) treatment
   c. Non-germicidal cleaner (removes biofilm)
   d. Passive slow release cartridge system
   e. Automated chemical treatment device
   f. Antimicrobial tubing or reservoirs
   g. Micropore filter
   h. Other non-chemical system
3. On what types of units has this product been tested?
4. Do any dental unit manufacturers recommend this product for use on their equipment?
5. Will this product damage any materials commonly used in dental units (metals, plastics)?
6. Is the product, toxic, caustic or sensitizing to humans? What testing has been performed to verify this? Can you provide me with a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)?
7. What is the initial purchase price of this product and how much will it cost to use it per dental unit per year?
8. How frequently and how long will it take to perform scheduled treatment or maintenance procedures with this product?
9. How frequently will I need to monitor to ensure that the product is working correctly?
10. Do you have any test data or published studies that support the safety and effectiveness of this product for maintaining dental unit water quality?
11. For devices: Has the FDA provided a 510(k) clearance or Pre-Market Approval for this device? [Note: Some products may be considered "exempt" by the FDA]
12. For chemical agents: Is this product a chemical germicide? If so, is it registered by the Environmental Protection Agency and state environmental regulatory agencies if required? [Note: Some chemicals marketed before 2000 may also have an FDA 510(k)]