

Tarbert Dental Surgery

Cross Infection Control Policy

Infection control is of prime importance in this practice. It is essential to the safety of our patients, our families and us. Every member of staff will receive training in all aspects of infection control, including decontamination of dental instruments and equipment, and the following policy **must** be adhered to at all times. If there is any aspect that is not clear, please ask Linda Garwood.

You might not be the only person who is unclear and it is useful to discuss the policy frequently to ensure that we all understand its implications. Remember, any of our patients might ask you about the policy, so make sure you understand it.

- 1 All staff must be immunised against hepatitis B and a record of their hepatitis B seroconversion held by the practice owner. For those who do not seroconvert, or cannot be immunised medical advice and counselling will be sought. In these cases it may be necessary to restrict their clinical activities.
- 2 The practice provides protective clothing, gloves, eyewear and masks that must be worn by dentists and PCDs during all operative procedures. Protective clothing worn in the surgery should not be worn outside the practice premises.
- 3 Before donning gloves, hands must be washed using Virucidal Hand Disinfectant. Any glove that becomes damaged must be replaced and a new pair of gloves must be used for each patient.
- 4 Before sterilisation, re-usable instruments should be cleaned either by placing in ultrasonic cleaner or washer/disinfector or washed in a designated area by hand underwater using a long-handled brush. Inspect instruments for residual debris and re-clean if necessary. Instruments are then rinsed under running water before being sterilised using an autoclave. Heavy-duty gloves and eye protection must be worn when handling and cleaning used instruments. All instruments that have been potentially contaminated must be sterilised. Single-use items must not be decontaminated and re-used.
- 5 Sterilised instruments should be stored in covered trays / pouches in the appropriate cupboards.
- 6 Working areas that have instruments placed on them during treatment will be kept to a minimum, clearly identified and, after each patient, cleaned and disinfected with Cutan and Azowipes.
- 7 Needles should be re-sheathed only using the re-sheathing device provided. Needles, scalpel blades, LA cartridges, burs, matrix bands etc shall be disposed of in the yellow sharps container. This must never be more than two-thirds full.
- 8 All clinical waste must be placed in the appropriate sacks or bins provided in each surgery. The sack must be securely fastened when three quarters full and stored in the designated area.

- 9 All dental impressions must be rinsed until visibly clean and disinfected using a dental impression disinfectant and labelled as 'disinfected' before being sent to the laboratory. Technical work being returned to the laboratory should also be disinfected and labelled.
- 10 In the event of an inoculation injury, the wound should be allowed to bleed, washed thoroughly under running water and covered with a waterproof dressing. The incident should be immediately discussed with Linda Garwood to assess whether further action is needed. Advice on post-exposure prophylaxis can be obtained from the A&E Doctor at the Mid Argyll Hospital. Record the incident in the accident book.
- 11 Any spillages involving blood or saliva or mercury will be reported to Linda Garwood.
- 12 Anyone developing a reaction to protective gloves or a chemical must inform Linda Garwood immediately
- 13 ALL STAFF WILL OBSERVE TOTAL CONFIDENTIALITY OF ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO PATIENTS OF THE PRACTICE

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