LET’S TALK ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL

Speaker: John Molinari, PhD

Course Objectives:

• The routine application of infection control practices and protocols based on accumulated science- and clinical-based evidence and regulatory requirements.

• To comprehend the variety of acceptable product choices for accomplishing infection control goals.

• To use the most current infection control recommendations for dentistry to as a basis for an effective, practical infection control program.

CODA Standards:

• 2-8d Dental hygiene science content must include oral health education and preventive counseling, health promotion, patient management, clinical dental hygiene, provision of services for and management of patients with special needs, community dental/oral health, medical and dental emergencies, legal and ethical aspects of dental hygiene practice, infection and hazard control management, and the provision of oral health care services to patients with bloodborne infectious diseases.

Canadian Competency:

• A3. Apply principles of risk reduction for client, colleague and practitioner safety, health and wellbeing.

• A5. Report unethical, unsafe and incompetent services to the appropriate regulatory organizations.

• E6. Apply quality assurance standards and protocols to ensure a safe and effective working environment.

• E9. Protect the environment by responsible use of consumables and disposal of waste products including biohazardous wastes.

• E10. Take responsibility for maintaining equipment used for services, including service records.
Additional Faculty Resources:

- CDC Infection Control in a Dental Health Setting: http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/
- OSAP: www.osap.org
- OSHA: www.osha.gov
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Classroom Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the processing of dental instruments using appropriate infection control procedures
2. Discuss the transmission of disease and why infection control is imperative.
3. List available hygiene infection control products
4. What are the CDC recommendations for hand hygiene protocol?
5. Discuss the available sterilization methods as well as waterline maintenance
6. Discuss the importance of biological monitoring

Classroom Activities for Additional Learning:

1. Invite local sales representatives in to the classroom to discuss products
2. Demonstrate steps in the infection control chain, include water line maintenance and biological monitoring
3. Students will demonstrate proper handwashing technique.
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Exam Questions:

1. Define the Spaulding Classification for Medical Devices and identify the levels of Disinfection.

The classification system first proposed by Dr. E. H. Spaulding divides medical devices into categories based on the risk of infection involved with their use. This classification system is widely accepted and is used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), epidemiologists, microbiologists, and professional medical organizations to help determine the degree of disinfection or sterilization required for various medical devices.

- **Critical:**
  A device that enters normally sterile tissue or the vascular system or through which blood flows should be sterile. Such devices should be sterilized, which is defined as the destruction of all microbial life.

- **Semicritical:**
  A device that comes into contact with intact mucous membranes and does not ordinarily penetrate sterile tissue. These devices should receive at least high-level disinfection, which is defined as the destruction of all vegetative microorganisms, mycobacterium, small or nonlipid viruses, medium or lipid viruses, fungal spores, and some bacterial spores.

- **Noncritical:**
  Devices that do not ordinarily touch the patient or touch only intact skin. These devices should be cleaned by low-level disinfection.

2. Sterilization is defined as

   A. Destruction or removal of all pathogenic organisms or organisms capable of giving rise to infection
   B. Process by which surface or medium is freed of all microorganisms in either a vegetative or spore state.
   C. State of being free from disease causing contaminants
   D. None of the above

   **Answer:** B
   **Rationale:** A defines disinfection and C defines asepsis.