

MADHA DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL

(A Christian Minority Institution)

(Recognised by the Dental Council of India, New Delhi (F.No.v.12017/75/2006-DE dt.01.11.2011) and affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R.Medical University, Chennai

Admin. Office: 1A, Chari Street, North Usman Road, T.Nagar, Chennai - 17. Ph: 2814 0212, Tele fax: 044-2814 0213

INFECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION POLICY

Policy No: MDC/IPC/2022/14

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INTRODUCTION:

Infection control is the discipline concerned with preventing nosocomial or health care associated infection. It is an essential, though often under-recognized, under-supported and at times 'taken -for-granted' part of the infrastructure. It is the responsibility of dentists to establish a protocol that prevents or limits the spread of infection in dental practice for their patients, their staff and themselves. This can be accomplished by following the nationally/locally recommended infection control work practice procedures. Any patient is likely to be a carrier of pathology and so the precautionary principle must be applied to all.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To protect the patients and members of the dental team from contracting infections (like HIV, HBV, syphilis, influenza) during dental procedures.
- 2. To reduce the number of pathogenic micro-organisms in the dental environment and therefore during dental procedures, to the lowest possible level.
- 3. To implement a high standard of cross- infection control when treating every patient, to prevent the transmission of infection.
- 4. To simplify cross infection control, thus allowing the dental team to complete dental procedures with minimal inconvenience.

STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE CROSS INFECTION CONTROL:

- 1. All patients must be screened.
- 2. Members of the dental team must stay healthy.
- 3. Provide barrier for personal protection.
- 4. Practice careful aspect technique.
- 5. Organise instruments carefully.
- 6. Sterilization and disinfection.





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- 7. Minimize possible contamination from dental equipment.
- 8. Dispose of contaminated waste safety.
- 9. Careful asepsis in radiology.
- 10. Provide a written infection control programme.
- 11. Understand national and local guidelines and regulation.

General Measures

- Adopting the principles of cleanliness and disinfection of all exposed surfaces in the work environment.
- Following protocols accepted and/or recommended by relevant authorities for the decontamination, disinfection, sterilization, ventilation and reprocessing of reusable instruments and disposal of clinical waste.
- Assuring that sterile instruments are protected from recontamination by using an appropriate sterile barrier system.
- Using single-use instruments where required.
- Exercising special care with the use of sharps and contaminated material; removing them from the work area after use and disposing them in a clearly labelled puncture-resistant container with traceability of disposal.
- Adopting disinfection principles for devices, prostheses, impressions, instruments and applicable items transported to and from the dental laboratory.
- Handling biopsy specimens with care and placing them in leak-proof containers according to the recommended guidelines.
- Designing (new) dental clinics that ensure good air ventilation and sufficient air exchange rates to facilitate infection control.

Health Professionals measures (Including students):

- To be physically protected (masks, gloves, visors/face shields, protective eye wear and outerwear) as appropriate for the care being provided and the level of risk.
- To be knowledgeable about, and protected from, health problems occurring from the use of





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enhanced personal protective equipment.

- To be appropriately vaccinated against Hepatitis B as a priority, according to current guidelines issued by the relevant authorities.
- Immediately initiate appropriate assessment to determine the need for post-exposure testing and prophylaxis following occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens, including HBV, HCV and HIV.
- To be personally aware of signs and symptoms which indicate the possibility of blood-borne and
 other infectious diseases, and receive the necessary diagnostic tests when infection is suspected.
 FDI opposes any legislation that mandates universal screening of oral health professionals for
 blood-borne and other pathogens.
- To comply with medical advice and relevant regulations regarding continuation of, or limitations to, clinical practice, in particular that of exposure prone procedures if a blood-borne viral infection is diagnosed.

Patient measures

- To be alert and triage/screen for signs and symptoms of blood-borne and other infectious diseases in their patients.
- To advise all patients with a relevant medical history of the need for referral to the most appropriate health care provider commensurate with their disease status or condition suggestive of infection. Patients should receive appropriate evaluation and treatment in a supportive environment with full regard to privacy.
- To have an appropriate protocol, in accordance with applicable relevant laws, for the confidential handling and sharing of patient information;
- To inform patients of the applicable privacy policy in all settings where dental care is delivered.
- To share information pertaining to the patient's medical condition with other health workers as permitted by relevant regulations and with the patient's consent.
- To educate patients regarding various aspects of blood-borne and other infectious diseases in the context of the management of oral diseases.



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COVID PROTOCOL:

- Use of personal protective equipment by the dental professionals while treating patients.
- Temperature screening done for patients, dental care providers and staffs.
- In accordance with state and CDC guidelines for healthcare settings, we are maintaining social distancing requirements in our clinical facility.

RADIATION PROTECTION:

We follow the AERB guidelines for effective radiation protection such as:

- The layout of the Department is as per AERB norms.
- Radiographic Equipment are purchased from AERB certified companies.
- Qualified and trained personnel are employed.
- Personal maintaining services for radiation workers are ensured.
- Authorized representatives inspect the equipment and Periodic safety reports are submitted to AERB for certification.
- 9-inchwall is provided for the room and walls are coated with lead.
- Lead lined door and screen.

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