

Decontamination of Equipment Audit Tool for Dental Practices

In order to comply with the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance* equipment (including medical devices) that comes into contact with the patient, e.g. eye protection, curing light, couch, must be decontaminated appropriately after each use on a patient. There should be a designated lead person for the decontamination of equipment who ensures standards of cleanliness are maintained.

Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff should carry out monthly audits using this audit tool to assess the standard of cleanliness of equipment. We would recommend that there should be documented evidence that stored equipment has been decontaminated and is within 1 month of the date when it was cleaned, e.g. indicator tape. In the event of non-compliance, action plans should be produced and reviewed regularly. Completed audit tools should be kept locally for good practice assurance and as evidence for CQC requirements.
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Decontamination of equipment should be undertaken in accordance with the organisation's Infection Prevention and Control Policy.

Methods of decontamination

Note: Devices should always be cleaned and disinfected as per manufacturer's instructions.

Cleaning: Any equipment that has been in contact with intact skin should be cleaned after use with detergent wipes or detergent and warm water, using a disposable cloth, then dried using disposable paper towels.

Disinfection: Staff should check that the product to be used is compatible with the manufacturer's instructions and appropriate for the task e.g. virucidal, sporicidal, before commencing disinfection. Equipment that has been in contact with non-intact skin, non-blood stained body fluids, or a patient with an infection, should be cleaned first, then disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant solution or disinfectant wipes. Equipment in contact with blood or blood stained body fluids should be disinfected first, then cleaned. Some disinfectant wipes, e.g. Clinell Universal, Vernacare Tuffie 5, and disinfectants, e.g. Chlor-Clean, Actichlor Plus, contain both detergent and disinfectant, providing a two in one action. This means equipment does not need to be cleaned before disinfection.

Audit completed by:

Job title:

Premises audited:

Date:

Question		Yes	No	N/A	Comments
1.	Staff are aware of how to access the organisations Infection Prevention and Control Policy on Decontamination, Cleaning and Disinfection.				
2.	Detergent wipes or detergent and warm water, disposable cloth and paper towels are available for the cleaning of equipment.				
3.	Disinfectant and disposable cloths or disinfectant wipes appropriate for the task, e.g. virucidal, sporicidal, are available for the disinfection of equipment.				
4.	Any solution of disinfectant is made up freshly every 24 hours and marked with the date and time of preparation.				
5.	Equipment is decontaminated in a designated area or away from clean items of equipment.				
6.	Hands are washed with liquid soap and warm running water before and after decontaminating equipment.				
7.	Disposable gloves and apron are worn when decontaminating equipment.				
8.	Eye protection, e.g. goggles, are worn if there is a risk of splashing to the eyes when decontaminating equipment.				
9.	Staff are aware that equipment should be decontaminated starting from the top and working downwards.				
10.	There is documented evidence that equipment stored or not currently in use has been decontaminated.				
11.	Equipment that has been decontaminated is clean, free from dust, dirt and body fluid stains, and is within one month of the date written when last decontaminated. <i>Staff should check 5 items of equipment. All items should be clean and free from dust, dirt or body fluid stains. Details of the equipment checked should be documented. All items must be clean to score a 'Yes'.</i>				Items of equipment checked: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
12.	Equipment is in a good condition, e.g. no rust, label residue or damage which would prevent effective cleaning.				
13.	Staff can describe the symbol used to indicate 'single use' items. 				
14.	Staff are aware that 'single use' items should not be re-used.				
15.	Staff are aware that 'single patient use' items, e.g. re-usable endodontic reamers, can be re-used on the same patient but not on any other patient.				