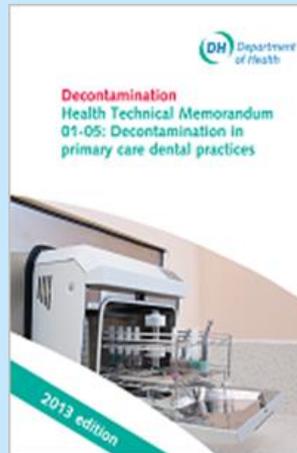# Infection Control Auditing in Dentistry

What is audit? **A way of measuring standards to reflect how safe you are keeping your patients, staff and visitors when visiting your practice. Audit also provides evidence of measuring those standards and actions taken were required. Auditing decontamination is a key element for dentistry. Auditing is a requirement within the Code of Practice for the Prevention of Health Care Associated Infection and forms part of the Health and Social Care Act 2008.**

Audit tools: are used to monitor and check that what is being audited is being done correctly. For example, auditing hand washing of staff is to make sure staff are washing their hands properly, using the **Ayliffe** technique. By observing staff in practice, or asking them to wash their hands to demonstrate the technique is correct is measuring compliance is being met. **REMEMBER Everyone should contribute to audit and monitoring.**

Decontamination
Health Technical Memorandum
01-05: Decontamination in
primary care dental practices

2013 edition

Hand hygiene audits should be carried out an ALL staff in the practice. Staff should be chosen randomly and findings recorded on the audit tool. Auditing should be carried out frequently.

Hand washing Audits

- Are staff practising 'Bare below the Elbow?'
- Staff following correct technique?
- Annual hand wash training provided?
- Staff know where to access hand hygiene policy?

- **HTM 01 05 audits should be carried out every 6 months (HTM 01 05).** Unless areas requiring immediate improvement it would be advised audit reviews are carried out sooner.
- If using the HTM 01 05 audit tool then you will cover all the areas necessary to comply with Legislation and the HTM 01 05 guidance.
- **A copy of your self audit results including any action plans should be forwarded to Karen Jones either electronically or hard copy.**

Remember

Ensure action plans have been :
- **Created for areas identified**
- **Actions completed accordingly**
- **Completion dates are recorded**

Please contact Karen Jones on 01744 457314/ 01744 457312 if you require any additional advice/support.