

INFECTION CONTROL NEWS FOR THE DENTAL TEAM

July 2017

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SELF-AUDITS AND ANNUAL
INFECTION CONTROL
STATEMENTS ; ARE THEY DUE ?

HTM 01 05 SELF-AUDITS AND ACTION PLANS

Audits for infection control monitoring all aspects of standard precautions 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. A copy of your self audit results including any action plans should be forwarded to Karen Jones either electronically or hard copy. Contact details at back of this newsletter.

If you complete through hard copy there will be no scorings or action plan generated. The action plan will need to be manually created. It is important that any areas not complying ; a manual action plan is to be drawn up and any actions are dealt with accordingly.

ANNUAL INFECTION CONTROL STATEMENTS

Annual statements for infection control must be completed for your practice. A copy should be made available at the practice for viewing if requested. A copy also should be forwarded to Karen Jones who in turn shares this information with NHS England.

Please check at your practice to make sure you are up to date in sending your data in to Infection Control.

Access to the audit tool go to :



<https://app.box.com/s/8cfwhj17p24f06clauf9bq02fqupg22r>

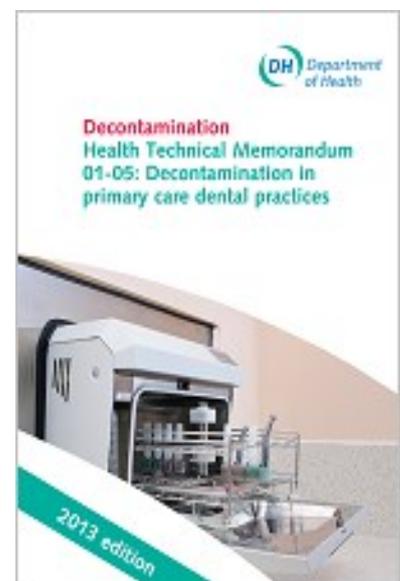
Please note: The IPS society no longer hosts access to the HTM 01 05 tool .



St. Helens Council



Shaping a healthier Warrington
Analysis Improvement Protection



COSHH stands for 'Control of Substances Hazardous to Health' and under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, employers need to either prevent or reduce their workers' exposure to substances that are hazardous to their health.

CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH

Every year, thousands of workers are made ill by hazardous substances, contracting lung disease such as asthma, cancer and skin disease such as dermatitis. These diseases cost many millions of pounds each year.

Products you use may be 'dangerous for supply'. If so, they will have a label that has one or more hazard symbols. These products include common substances in everyday use such as paint, bleach, solvent or fillers. When a product is 'dangerous for supply', by law, the supplier must provide you with a safety data sheet. Note: medicines, pesticides and cosmetic products have different legislation and don't have a safety data sheet. Ask the supplier how the product can be used safely.

Think about the task If the substance is harmful, how might workers be exposed? Breathing in gases, fumes, mist or dust? If contact with the skin? If swallowed? If contact with the eyes? Or Skin puncture?

Since 2009, new international symbols have been gradually replacing the European symbols. Some of them are similar to the European symbols, but there is no single word describing the hazard. Read the hazard statement on the packaging and the safety data sheet from the supplier. Risk assessment is important when you purchase products you have not used before to ensure steps have been taken to prevent potential harm. You need to know how workers are exposed, and to how much, before you can decide if you need to do anything to reduce their exposure. The COSHH Regulations require employers to assess the risk to their employees, and to prevent or adequately control those risks. Sometimes, it's easy to judge the amount of exposure to substances and decide what you can do about it. If you have five or more employees, you must record your assessment but, even if you have fewer than five, it makes sense to write down what steps you have taken to identify the risks. And the really important part is making a list of the actions you are taking to control the risks to health. Examples of risk assessments for different industries can be found on the following website www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies.

Within the practice there should be secure and labelled storage for all COSHH products. Always store products containing chemicals securely in a cool, dry, dark place, capable of keeping in spills. Don't store far more than you need. Keep the storage area clean and well organised. Always clear up spills immediately and dispose of hazardous waste through a specialist contractor.



**COSHH
store**

Myth 'I don't work with harmful substances.'

Reality Most businesses use substances that can be hazardous to health – even something as simple as flour can act as a substance hazardous to health.

CALLING ALL DENTAL STAFF..... PLEASE HAVE YOUR INFLUENZA VACCINATION THIS WINTER

For most healthy people influenza infection causes fever, headache, sore throat, joint pain and fatigue, with recovery time ranging from two to seven days. However, for some, especially older people, pregnant women, and people with underlying health conditions, it can cause serious even life-threatening complications and death.

There are three types of influenza virus that cause Flu - A, B and C, and different types of strains within these groups.

Flu vaccines are offered to all those aged 65 years and above, and also to those under 65yrs who have a long term medical condition such as asthma, diabetes and heart problems. The flu vaccine will also offered to children from aged 2—8 years this winter.

Public Health England (PHE) have published guidance with regards to the importance that all healthcare workers should be vaccinated.to protect themselves, their families and their patients and colleagues. PHE quote in the guidance that 'Immunisation against influenza should form part of healthcare organisations' policy for the prevention of transmission of infection (influenza) to protect patients, staff and visitors' and 'social care providers, nursing and residential homes, and independent providers such as GPs, *dental* and optometry practices, and community pharmacists, should also offer vaccination to their staff.'

Flu vaccines are made available at most chemists and supermarket chains for a small charge.

EFFECTIVENESS

Estimates suggest that influenza vaccine has an overall effectiveness against confirmed disease of 59% in adults aged 18 – 65 years. Protection may be lower in those aged 65 years and over, however, immunisation has been shown to reduce the risk of bronchopneumonia, hospital admissions and mortality.

So remember this winter to add the Flu vaccine to your list of things to do! And lets help put the preventative measures in place in not just the workplace but in your home too.



PHE guidance go to : https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/600532/annual_flu_plan_2017to2018.pdf



AEROSOL CONTAMINATION IN THE DENTAL SURGERY

Following dental procedures minute particles can stay airborne for an extended period of time before settling on the environment or even in the respiratory tract. Staff and patients can be exposed to blood, saliva, nasopharyngeal secretions, tooth components, calculus, plaque, and restorative material. Research has found that they can remain airborne for up to 30 minutes following an aerosol generated procedure. (*R. James et al, Dental Aerosol: A silent Hazard in Dentistry, November 2016*).

Research carried out in 2013 found central areas of the face of the dentist such as inner part of eyes and around nose mostly contaminated with aerosol contamination. Staff must remember that the face is a 'portal of entry for microbes' and the wearing of appropriate PPE is essential. Uniforms will also receive a level of contamination; that is why it is advised disposable aprons are also worn for *all* aerosol generated procedures including conservation treatment. Pathogens can live outside the human body for sometime, for example some respiratory Bacteria can live on uniforms for several days if not laundered after each use. Pathogenic microbes on uniforms can also be transmitted to other environments if worn outside the clinical setting.

In the surgery consideration should be also given to the equipment and dental products that can also potentially become contaminated. Instruments should be kept in packaging or stored in covered containers until point of use. Other equipment such as burs, LA cartridges, suction tips or cotton wool rolls should be kept packaged, until point of use also. Pictures below demonstrate poor and good practice. The area that will receive the most contamination is within a 1 metre radius of the dental chair so were achievable consider storing instruments as far away from that area as achievable.



Access to Occupational Health Services at Aintree University Hospital, Liverpool

A FREE service in conjunction with NHS England is being provided for all dental practices for blood borne viruses advice, inoculation injuries and Hep B vaccinations. Other services regarding occupation health are not included. However, the occupational health service would provide for a charge. **A drop in clinic is available Mon– Fri 8.30am-9.00 am & 4.00-4.30pm.** Out of these times if urgent advice required you are advised to phone first. Non urgent enquiries it is advised to email in the first instance. **Contact details: Diane Lee Tel: 0151 529 6607. Address : Aintree Hospital, Lower Lane, Liverpool L9 7AL. Email: www.aintreeworkandwell-being.nhs.uk.**

INFECTION CONTROL LEAD NURSE FORUM GROUP MEETINGS - DATES FOR 2017

Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Fingerpost HC, Atlas Street, St Helen's WA9 1LN

Thursday 21st September 2017 – 6 -7.30 pm

Thursday 7th December 2017 – 6 -7.30 pm

Warrington Wolves Stadium, Warrington , WA2 7NE

Tuesday 26th September 2017 – 6 -7.30 pm at Warrington Wolves, Room F27

Tuesday 12th December 2017- 6 -7.30 pm at Warrington Wolves, Room F27

You are welcome to attend either meeting as the agenda will be the same for both venues.

If you are interested in attending and have not been before please can you contact me in advance. Contact details on the back page.



Join us on Facebook

If you would like to join our dental forum group on Facebook please contact Karen (details on back page.)

3 BOROUGHES INFECTION TEAM HAVE MOVED

Contact details :

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INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING



Would your practice like some infection control training?

If so please get in touch (see contact details above). I will come to your practice when suits you to deliver infection control training . It can be tailored to suit your training needs. It will also be verifiable CPD!

Infection Control Leads:

Have you received training for your role? Did you know we provide workplace based training for leads to undertake? The training and workbook have been devised from an accredited course we have previously delivered. Individuals completing the training will receive over 20 hrs verifiable CPD and accrue hours of non-verifiable also.

Are you thinking of refurbishing at your practice?

Surgeries, general environment or installing a local decontamination unit (LDU) ? Then please get in touch and we can provide you with professional advice regarding infection control measures you will need to consider



EMAIL COMMUNICATION WE NEED YOU!!!!

Have you notified us of your most up to date email address for your practice?

If not , please can you get in touch so we can ensure you receive all our communication