

Infection Control

Infection Control Checklist – Before, During and After any procedure

Hand Washing

Hand Washing is the most important single method of infection control -

The hands normally have a lot of micro-organisms, living on the skin and under the nails, other organisms (germs) are picked up during every-day activities, such as touching items.

Many infection control problems are caused by the organisms which we pick up during the day

Hand washing removes these organisms before they are transferred to another individual, or to an object that someone else may touch.

The risk of infection is broken by good hand hygiene

Good practice

- Fingernails should be kept clean, nail varnish free and short
- Jewellery should not be worn, except a plain band e.g. wedding bands
- Breaks anywhere on the skin should be covered with a blue waterproof dressing
- Medical advice should be sought for skin damage by other agencies e.g. eczema

Hands must be washed before and after each care activity or patient contact for example:-

- Before handling food
- When the hands are visibly dirty
- Before a clean procedure
- After a dirty procedure, even if gloves were worn
- Between treatments for one person
- Between different individuals

How to wash your hands

Poor hand washing is common and the missed areas are the tips of the fingers, palm of the hand and the thumb

It is important that hand washing is carried out correctly to stop the spread of infection

Washing with liquid soap and water removes most of the organisms. This is acceptable for most purposes.

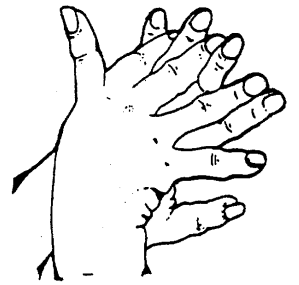
An alcohol rub is a useful alternative when hand washing facilities are not available. This technique is only suitable if hands are not visibly dirty.

Equipment needed for hand washing

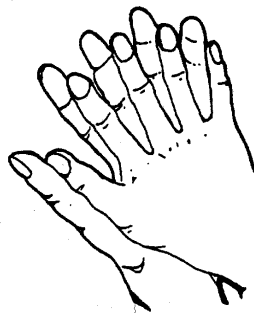
- Hand washing basin
- Hot and cold running water
- Anti bacterial soap or normal soap (liquid)
- Disposable paper towel
- Foot operated pedal bin



1. Palm to palm



2. Right palm over left dorsum and left palm over right dorsum



3. Palm to palm fingers interlaced



4. Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



5. Rotational rubbing of right thumb clasped in left palm and vice versa



6. Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa

Before any procedure

Switch on all of your equipment:

- Surgery lights switched on
- Master control switched on (electricity)
- Compressor
- Chair
- Water to your unit is switched on (if appropriate)

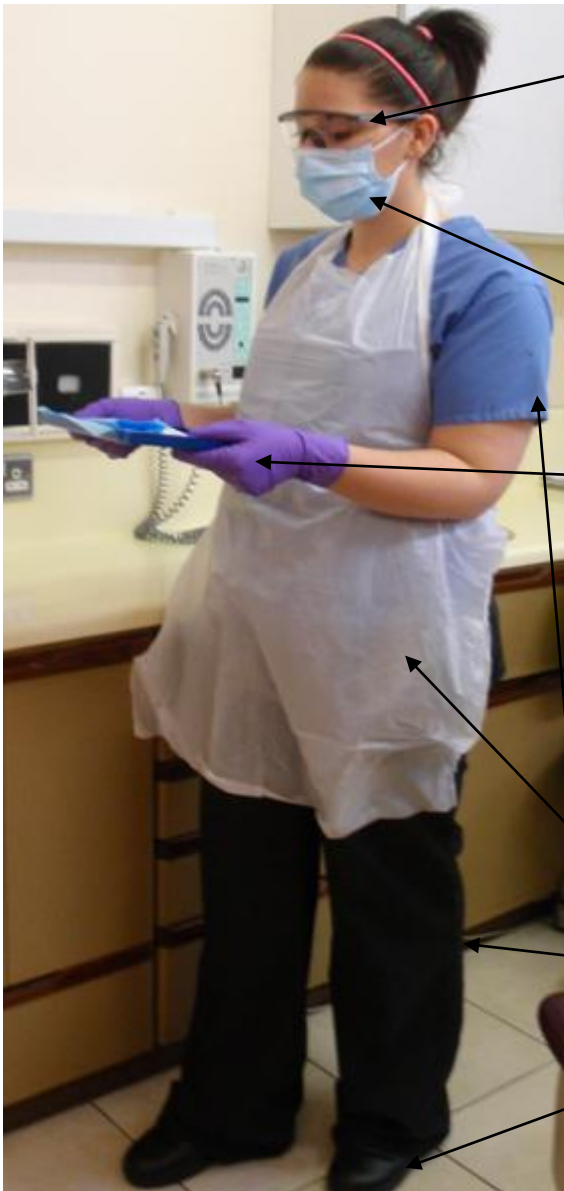
Other Duties – Only carried out once at the beginning of the day:

- Detachable water bottle is filled up (if appropriate)
- Water is run through all of your hand piece and 3 in 1 lines (1minute)
- Autoclave(s) are replenished with water and tested with a strip and logged

Decontaminate the surgery:

Personal Protective Equipment PPE

(Remember no jewellery and hair tied back)



Protective glasses with wrap round sides or full mask (this protects the eyes from flying debris and from aerosol spray when working in a patient's mouth or when cleaning instruments. They also protect the eyes from splashes of dangerous chemicals or cleaning agents).

A **surgical mask** to cover the mouth and nose to protect them from spray or splashes. A new mask is worn for each patient and is put on before handwashing and taken off after gloves have been removed.

Gloves are single use and must only be worn after good handwashing – (any cuts should be covered with a waterproof dressing). They help to reduce the risks of needlestick injuries. They reduce cross infection when used correctly. They may be vinyl, nitrile or latex. Powdered gloves should be avoided as the powder causes allergies and skin conditions. Latex gloves should only be used if the patient does not suffer from allergies. Heavy duty gloves should be used when cleaning sharp instruments.

Waterproof disposable **aprons** protect the uniform when there is a chance of spray or splashes.

Uniform should not be worn outside the clinic. They should be changed daily and washed with detergent and hot water at least 65 degrees to remove any possible contamination.

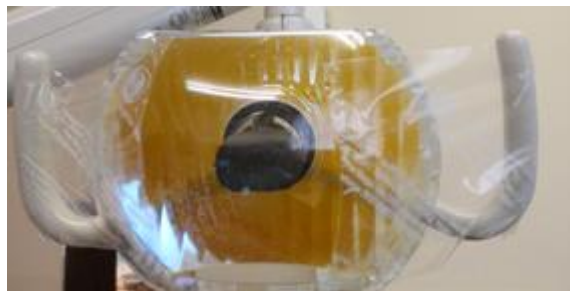
Footwear should cover the feet and protect the feet from dropping instruments.

Wearing your full PPE, including: Uniform, gloves, eye protection and a face mask



Use an appropriate Hypo-chlorite or Alcohol or Detergent wipes to clean all areas of the surgery

Apply barrier protection (special covers or cling film can be used). These are used to cover any area that may be handled during a patient visit and are difficult to clean with just wipes. They come in many sizes and shapes to fit over dental equipment, tubing curing lights and controls



An instrument tray is set up and all materials and medicaments for the particular procedure are set up and placed in clean 'zones'

During any procedure

Standard Precautions should be applied to all patients: (This is treating all patients as if they are high risk)

Zoning (a marked area)

Zones should be properly marked and maintained (kept clean and tidy) during your treatment session

Dirty Zone

Bracket table

Suction pipes/spittoon

Work surface on the dentist's side

The instrument decontamination sink.

Clean Zone

Assistant's side of the work surface (materials/medicaments are kept until needed)

Drawers

Storage after sterilisation

Generally during the procedure



Whenever possible single use items must be used

Gloves must be removed when opening drawers (if you have forgotten something) hands cleaned with alcohol rub and new gloves placed on.

After any procedure

Decontamination of Surgery:

Wearing full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All instruments are removed on the tray to the decontamination area 'dirty zone'

Sharps are safely dismantled and disposed of in the surgery (disposed of in the sharps bin)

Clinical waste is segregated and disposed in a yellow bag

Instruments are:

Decontaminated according to the practice policy

 Packaged and oiled (if needed)

 Sterilised

 Stored

All cling film and barrier protection is removed

The surgery is decontaminated and dressed as before

At the end of the session, the surgery is cleaned and left un-dressed for the following day.