

Dental IPC Bites

April 2023

Sterilized and Spotless: Monitoring

The sterilization process is complex and requires regular monitoring. There are multiple ways to monitor the sterilization cycles your sterilizer completes.

The first monitoring process we wanted to highlight is physical or mechanical monitoring of the cycle parameters. Sterilizers should provide a report of the time, temperature and pressure of each cycle. Some print these and others are able to be downloaded from the sterilizer.

Every load should be checked to ensure the time, temperature and pressure meet the sterilization requirements for the cycle selected.

You can find more at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/monitoring.html>

The Mouthy IP

The Mouthy IP is a podcast that is focused on dental infection prevention and. Find out more on Twitter at @Mouthy_IP or on our website at:

<https://bit.ly/ICAPDental>

Submit your questions to stream@nebraskamed.com



Upcoming Events

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 04/26/23

[OSAP Webinar: Instrument Processing: Facts and FAQs](#) | 05/04/23

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 05/10/23

Antimicrobial Stewardship: It Matters

In March 2023, CDC, Organization for Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention (OSAP), and American Dental Association (ADA) released new and updated dental antibiotic stewardship resources to optimize prescribing practices among dentists:

- **[Dentists: Be Antibiotics Aware – Treating Patients with Dental Pain and Swelling Fact Sheet](#)**

This resource summarizes updated ADA treatment guidelines on when antibiotic prescribing is and is not needed for specific dental conditions.

- **[On-demand recordings from the Antibiotic Stewardship Summit](#)**

In collaboration with OSAP, on January 22, CDC participated in an antibiotic stewardship summit to address antibiotic stewardship in the dental healthcare setting.

- **[Antibiotic Use for a Safe Dental Visit Brochure](#)**

This resource can be used by dentists to inform patients and their families about using antibiotics appropriately for a safe dental visit.

Remember: improving antibiotic use in dental care keeps your patients healthy, helps prevent side effects, and fights antimicrobial resistance.

April's Featured Infection Control Resource

This month's featured resource is regarding sharps safety in healthcare. Unsafe injection practices put patients and healthcare providers at risk of infectious and non-infectious adverse events and have been associated with a wide variety of settings. Education and training for your staff should be a regular part of your infection control program. You can find more resources and training tools from the CDC's Safe Injection Initiative at: <https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/>

Nebraska ICAP Supports Dental Clinics with Infection Control

Nebraska ICAP is a free program that offers dental clinics many infection prevention and control (IPC) support services to build their IPC programs. Reach out to us to schedule support for your infection control needs.

- Proactive, non-regulatory infection control reviews for any office
- Staff education and infection control career advancement programs
- Infection control support via phone or email
- Infection control educational presentations and courses



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