

Dental IPC Bites

June 2023

Sterilized and Spotless: Mixed Loads

Did you know that different instruments, like handpieces, require different sterilization parameters? Sterilizing mixed loads, those with pouches, cassettes, and handpieces has the potential to damage instruments or handpieces if the parameters are different than their recommended sterilization parameters.

Best practice is to review all manufacturer instructions for reprocessing and separate instruments and equipment into loads based on their correct cycle settings.

You can find more information on loading your sterilizer by checking the instructions for your instruments, handpieces, and sterilizer to ensure sterilizer effectiveness in your facility.

The Mouthy IP

The Mouthy IP is a podcast that is focused on dental infection prevention and control. 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

[ADAA: Oral Manifestations from Food Related Autoimmune Disease](#) | 06/20/23

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 06/28/23

[OSAP: Proper Handpiece Care](#) | 07/06/23

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 07/12/23

CDC Updated Hepatitis B Screening and Testing Guidance

In March of 2023, the CDC published an updated to guidance surrounding [Hepatitis B screening and testing in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#). This update includes recommendations on the frequency of screening and testing for all adults and those that are at higher risk for contracting Hepatitis B. This guidance states that every adult be tested at least once in their lifetime and more frequent testing for those that are at higher risk.

OSHA requires that employers provide Hepatitis B information, vaccination, and testing (if needed) to all employees at no cost as a part of the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. This is a great time to review your Hepatitis B screening, testing and vaccination policies to make sure they are reflecting the most recent updates.

June's Featured Infection Control Resource

June's featured infection control resource is from The Joint Commission. They published Quick Safety Issue 65 on guidance for managing and storing packaged supplies and instruments. Packaged supplies and instruments are required to have specific manufacturer instructions for use (IFU) for storage, handling, and reprocessing that should be reviewed before use.

You can find this resource [here](#).

	Do not re-sterilize, which indicates the device should not be re-sterilized after it once has been sterilized.		Device is intended for one single use only. Do not reuse.
	Single patient, multiple use. Indicates the device may be used multiple times on a single patient.		Indicates a medical device that has not been subjected to a sterilization process.

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.

- Initiative-taking, 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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