

Dental IPC Bites

October 2023

Upcoming Events

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 11/08/23

[Ne ICAP Quality Control in Sterile Processing](#) | 11/29/23

Sterilized and Spotless: Instrument Transport

Many people don't believe that instrument transport is a part of the sterilization process, but proper transportation of contaminated instruments keep staff safe and set the stage for effective cleaning and sterilization.

According to OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen's Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(2)(viii)), contaminated instruments shall be placed in appropriate containers for transportation from the work area. "These containers shall be: (A) Puncture resistant; (B) Labeled or color-coded in accordance with this standard; and (C) Leakproof on the sides and bottom."

Instruments can remain in the transport container until they are ready to be reprocessed as long as there is a process to keep the instruments from drying out, like an enzymatic spray.

The Mouthy IP Podcast

You can find more information at: <https://bit.ly/ICAPDental>
Submit your questions to ssstream@nebraskamed.com



The Importance of having an Infection Control Coordinator

In addition to OSHA requiring a Safety Coordinator, the CDC recommends having an Infection Control Coordinator or lead in your facility to serve as the expert on keeping your patients and staff safe. This person can then help your staff understand the need to continue to offer safe care by creating a safe space for questions and concerns about infection control in your practice.

Infection Control Coordinator Suggested Responsibilities:

- Stay up to date on the latest infection control guidance from the CDC and State Dental Board
- Help develop implement and maintain policies and procedures for the facility's Infection Control Plan
- Help develop, implement and maintain an education and training program for staff

October's Featured Infection Control Resource

The CDC recently released a toolkit for healthcare settings on oral healthcare of hospitalized patients to reduce the risk of Non-Ventilator Healthcare Associated Pneumonia (NV-HAP). Oral care reduced pneumonia rates by 85% in one study, proving that an oral care plan for hospital patients has an effect on their outcomes. You can find this toolkit at:

<https://bit.ly/401OSq7>

Oral Health in Healthcare Settings to Prevent Pneumonia Toolkit

WHO should use this toolkit? Hospital staff and members of the non-ventilator healthcare-associated pneumonia (NV-HAP) prevention team.

WHAT is this toolkit about? This toolkit serves as a ready-to-use resource on how to promote and provide oral care to hospitalized patients, which some evidence suggests these interventions can reduce a patient's risk of developing NV-HAP.

HOW should I use this toolkit? Use the resources provided before, during, and after a hospital visit to educate team members and patients on the best quality oral care practices and the potential role of oral care in preventing NV-HAP and increasing overall good health.

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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