

# Dental IPC Bites

December 2023



## Upcoming Events

[Ne ICAP Acute/ Outpatient Webinar](#) | 01/10/24

[APIC/ OSAP Dental Collaboration Series: A Success Story: Public Health and Corporate Dentistry](#) | 01/18/24

## Sterilized and Spotless: Standardization

Having a standard protocol for cleaning and sterilization processes for your instruments is the best way to keep your quality of care at the highest standard. Training staff is also an important part of this quality program.

To ensure all staff are performing the same process, specific training should be done on the process identified. Once training is completed, regular audits or reviews can be done to double check the process is being followed correctly.

Auditing can then identify areas for improvement and help guide further education for staff to keep them all on the same page with processes for quality care.

Developing a training checklist can help ensure everyone understands the process and is performing the correct tasks.

## The Mouthy IP Podcast

You can find more information at: <https://bit.ly/ICAPDental>  
Submit your questions to [sstream@nebraskamed.com](mailto:sstream@nebraskamed.com)



## Top Infection Control Gaps of 2023

Nebraska ICAP has been offering proactive infection control reviews for facilities since 2018. These reviews help facilities identify gaps in their infection control processes and options to help mitigate those gaps. See the table below for top opportunities for improvement and practical solutions.

Infection Control Opportunities for Improvement	Mitigation Strategies for Every Office
No competency or skills check-off included in the employee training program.	Check out <a href="#">this article</a> on the importance of incorporating competency in your training program.
No annual review or evaluation of sharps devices that are used in the practice.	The CDC has great <a href="#">recommendations for screening and evaluating sharps devices</a> .
No plan related to municipal water disruption as a part of the water management policy.	Check out the CDC's <a href="#">Emergency Water Supply Planning Guide</a> for guidance on developing this plan.
Disinfection of the rubber septum on anesthetic carpules was not observed before loading anesthetic syringes.	OSAP has identified the proper process for disinfecting anesthetic carpules in <a href="#">this blog post</a> .
Contaminated instruments were not observed to be transported in an OSHA-approved transport container.	The appropriate puncture proof, leak proof container is further described by OSHA in <a href="#">this article</a> .
Waterlines were not flushed for the recommended 20-30 seconds between each patient.	The CDC's <a href="#">Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Settings</a> explains this on pg. 29 to prevent backflow.

## 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



Contact us at 402.552.2881  
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