

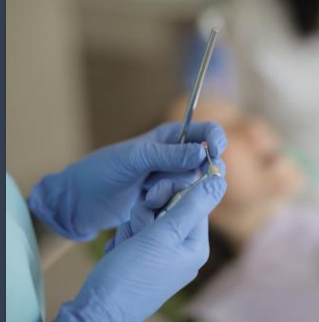
Sterilized and Spotless: Maintaining Sterility

Once your instruments have been effectively sterilized, how do you maintain sterility to ensure patient safety?

There are some practices that can help with this:

1. Store the sterilized instruments in a dry, covered area, such as a drawer or cabinet.
2. Ensure packaging is not damaged (holes, water/oil/ burn marks) before using instruments for patient care.
3. Only open packaging immediately before the procedure. Once the package is open, sterility can not be maintained.

For more information on sterilization and sterility, visit the [CDC's website on Sterilization Practices](#).



Upcoming Events

[OSAP Annual Session: Tucson, AZ](#) | 05/30 - 06/01/24

[Eco Sustainable Safety Culture](#) | 06/12/24

[Management of a Blood Exposure](#) | 06/18/24

[Psychological Safety and Patient Safety](#) | 06/26/24

Dirtiest Surfaces Identified: Cleaning and Disinfection

During facility assessments, Nebraska ICAP conducted surface testing on 7 standard clinical care surfaces. We used the Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) Luminometer with its manufacturer threshold to identify surfaces as 'clean' or 'dirty' as an educational tool.

High-risk surfaces identified by these tests included A/W syringe buttons (57.3% failure rate), operator hoses (50% failure rate), the arm on the patient chair (42.9% failure rate and provider loupes (36.4% failure rate). What does this mean for you?

These results show that there is an opportunity to review processes and cleaning/disinfection techniques within facilities to increase barrier use and standardize processes for a safer dental visit.

INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Barrier use on hard to clean surfaces (e.g. A/W Syringe)	Education on 2-step cleaning/ disinfection process
Implement checklist or standard cleaning/ disinfection process	Reviewing cleaner/ disinfectant manufacturer's instructions for use

Critical Feedback Needed

We know you're familiar with what we do, but we want to know how you feel about it! Please fill out this short survey letting us know your experience and how we can best serve you in the future.

Your feedback is crucial to continuing to offer the most up to date resources and support available! You may open the survey by scanning the QR code or at <https://redcap.nebraskamed.com/surveys/?s=MWACJYY7FCMADLDA>



ICAP Newsworthy Notes

What's been going on at ICAP? We're so glad you asked!

- ICAP will be presenting the full results of the ATP testing project summarized above at OSAP Annual Conference. You'll be able to access the full poster on our website after June 3, 2024 at: <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/about-us/publications/>
- ICAP continues to work with dental facilities in Nebraska to proactively review their infection control programs and policies and provide IPC education for a safer dental visit.
- Dental Resources that cover all infection control topics as well as information on where to listen to the podcast can be found on our website at: <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/facilities/dental/>



Contact us with your infection control questions, site visit requests, education, or mentorship questions at 402.552.2881 or nebraskaicap@nebraskamed.com.