


## IPC Guidelines – Revision Summary

Location	Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	Rationale
Throughout	College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA)	Alberta College of Dental Hygienists (ACDH)	Reflects College rebranding
NEW: Controls (page 11)	New	<p><b>Controls</b></p> <p><b>The process of conducting hazard assessments and implementing control measures will help to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses.</b></p>	Addition to reinforce the requirement and obligation to Occupational Health and Safety of performing the risk hazard assessment.
PPE (page 12, 13)	<p>Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to a variety of barriers (e.g., gloves, masks, eye protection) used alone or in combination to protect mucous membranes, airways, skin, and clothing. OHCPs and other staff wear PPE for protection from infectious and chemical agents and for the prevention of transmission of microorganisms. PPE is required, used, and doffed with consideration for public health best practices.</p> <p>Protective Clothing</p> <p>Whenever spatter or spray from blood or other body fluids is anticipated during oral health procedures, a water-resistant gown is required. Clinical and laboratory</p>	<p>Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to a variety of barriers (e.g., gloves, masks, eye protection) used alone or in combination to protect mucous membranes, airways, skin, and clothing. OHCPs and other staff wear PPE for protection from infectious and chemical agents and for the prevention of transmission of microorganisms. <b>Add: PPE is donned after the OHCP has completed a point of care risk assessment and has assessed the task, the client, and the environment. Remove: PPE is required, used, and doffed with consideration for public health best practices.</b></p> <p>Protective Clothing</p> <p><b>Remove: Whenever spatter or spray from blood or other body fluids is anticipated during oral health procedures, Add: Whenever clothing or skin may become contaminated with splashes, spatter or spray from</b></p>	<p>New and amended wording allows the OHCP to choose the most appropriate PPE based on the Point of Care Risk Assessment.</p> <p><a href="#">AHS Risk Assessment April 2023 (002).pdf</a></p>  <p>AHS Risk Assessment April 2023.pdf</p> <p>New and amended wording allows the OHCP to choose the most appropriate PPE based on the Point of Care Risk Assessment.</p>

## IPC Guidelines – Revision Summary

	coats or jackets are not a substitute for gowns where a gown is indicated	<b>blood or other body fluids</b> , a water-resistant gown is <b>(Add: donned)</b> . Clinical and laboratory coats or jackets are not a substitute for gowns where a gown is indicated.	
Workspace Design (page 29)	Physical separation between contaminated and clean areas. Where physical separation (i.e., with walls or partitions) of reprocessing areas is not possible, spatial separation is established.	In <b>(Add: existing facilities)</b> where physical separation (i.e., with walls or partitions) of reprocessing areas is not possible, spatial separation is established.	Recommended changes enhance alignment with Alberta Health Standards and CDSA Standards.  Provides clear indication that in new facilities requirements include physical separation between contaminated and dirty areas, this reduces the risk of cross contamination. Existing facility may have spatial separation.
Sinks (page 29)	Two adjacent designated sinks for cleaning contaminated instruments, large enough to immerse the largest piece of equipment are available.  Where two adjacent sinks dedicated for cleaning and rinsing are not possible, a dedicated basin for rinsing equipment after cleaning in a dedicated sink is an acceptable alternative. The dedicated basin is large enough to fully submerge the item being rinsed.	Two adjacent designated sinks for cleaning contaminated instruments, large enough to immerse the largest piece of equipment are available.  <b>(Add: In existing facilities)</b> , where two adjacent sinks dedicated for cleaning and rinsing are not possible, a dedicated basin for rinsing equipment after cleaning in a dedicated sink is an acceptable alternative. The dedicated basin is large enough to fully submerge the item being rinsed.	Recommended changes enhance alignment with Alberta Health Standards and CDSA Standards.  Provides clear indication that in new facilities requirements include two adjacent sinks, this double sink requirement reduces the risk of cross contamination. Existing facility may continue to use a dedicated basin.

## IPC Guidelines – Revision Summary

<p>Preparation and Cleaning Reusable Dental Instruments (page 31)</p>	<p>Refer to MIFU when determining methods of cleaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For equipment maintenance and quality assurance testing.</li> <li>• When choosing a holding solution, spray, foam, or gel for keeping instruments moist.</li> <li>• When disassembly is required as part of the cleaning process.</li> <li>• For processing of hinged instruments, handpieces, burs, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to MIFU when determining methods of cleaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For equipment maintenance and quality assurance testing.</li> <li>• When choosing a holding solution, spray, foam, or gel for keeping instruments moist.</li> <li>• When disassembly is required as part of the cleaning process.</li> <li>• For processing of hinged instruments, handpieces, burs, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Add: Reassembly takes place in a clean dry area.</b></p>	<p>Recommended changes will enhance alignment with Alberta Health and CSDA.</p> <p>Reduces risk of cross contamination.</p>
<p>NEW: Cleaning Accessories (page 31)</p>	<p>New</p>	<p><b>Add: Cleaning accessories (e.g., long-handled brushes) are disposable or sterilized between uses.</b></p> <p><b>Cleaning accessories are inspected before use to ensure they are not damaged. Damaged cleaning accessories are not used.</b></p> <p><b>Reusable cleaning accessories are reprocessed after use in accordance with the MIFU, inspected for damage, and stored in a clean, dry place. Single-use cleaning accessories are discarded following use.</b></p>	<p>Cleaning accessories was not included in the original document. Recommended changes to strengthen document and enhance alignment with Alberta Health Standards and CDSA.</p>

## IPC Guidelines – Revision Summary

<p>Ultrasonic Cleaners (page 31 – Table 6)</p>	<p>Ultrasonic cleaners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a special solution and high energy sound waves to loosen and break up debris on instruments. Is not overloaded to allow soundwaves to come in contact with all surfaces of every device. Rinse devices to remove gross soil prior to use and rinse thoroughly following cleaning to remove residual soil and cleaning agents.</li> <li>• Performance is tested according to MIFU.</li> <li>• Reduces the OHCP's contact with contaminated items; OHCP is free to perform other tasks while the instruments are being cleaned efficiently and effectively.</li> </ul>	<p>Ultrasonic cleaners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a special solution and high energy sound waves to loosen and break up debris on instruments. Is not overloaded to allow soundwaves to come in contact with all surfaces of every device. Rinse devices to remove gross soil prior to use and rinse thoroughly following cleaning to remove residual soil and cleaning agents.</li> <li>• Performance is tested according to MIFU <b>(Add: at least weekly or more frequently if MIFU specifies.)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The ultrasonic detergent solution is changed at least daily or more frequently when visibly soiled or if the ultrasonic cleaner or solution MIFU specifies more frequent changes (e.g., with every cycle.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the OHCP's contact with contaminated items; OHCP is free to perform other tasks while the instruments are being cleaned efficiently and effectively.</li> </ul>	<p>Recommended changes enhance alignment with Alberta Health and CDSA.</p> <p>This item exceeds the CSA Z314:23, the committee is aware that Alberta Health is in the process of updating Provincial Standards. We may wish to revisit this item when new Standards are released.</p>
<p>Instrument Washers (page 31 – Table 7)</p>	<p>Instrument washers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses high water flow rates and special detergents to safely and efficiently clean instruments.</li> <li>• A pre-wash rinse cycle is used when there is a risk of instruments becoming dry while awaiting a full load.</li> <li>• Eliminates the need for presoaking, hand scrubbing, rinsing, and</li> </ul>	<p>Instrument washers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses high water flow rates and special detergents to safely and efficiently clean instruments.</li> <li>• A pre-wash rinse cycle is used when there is a risk of instruments becoming dry while awaiting a full load.</li> <li>• Eliminates the need for presoaking, hand scrubbing, rinsing, and drying;</li> </ul>	<p>Recommended changes enhance alignment with Alberta Health Standards and CDSA.</p> <p>This item exceeds the CSA Z314:23, the committee is aware that Alberta Health is in the process of updating Provincial Standards. We may wish to revisit this item when new Standards are released.</p>

## IPC Guidelines – Revision Summary

	<p>drying; minimizes contact with contaminated sharps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow MIFUs for water quality, enzymes, detergents, and system maintenance.</li> <li>• Check MIFU to determine whether the instrument washer only cleans instruments or cleans and disinfects</li> </ul>	<p>minimizes contact with contaminated sharps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instrument washers used for cleaning shall be used in accordance with MIFU.</li> </ul> <p><b>Add: The performance of the automated cleaning system (e.g., instrument washers) is tested according to specific MIFU each day that it is in use, using commercially available indicators or test kits.</b></p>	
Inspection (page 32)	<p>Inspect. Visually inspect instruments to ensure debris is removed and are optimal and safe for use (sharp, operating as intended). Ensure functionality or replace.</p>	<p>Inspect. Visually inspect instruments to ensure debris is removed and are optimal and safe for use (sharp, operating as intended).</p> <p><b>Add: Dental or medical devices that are damaged or in poor working condition are removed from service, labelled, and segregated from usable dental or medical devices. Such dental or medical devices are either repaired or disposed of in accordance with the documented SOPs.</b></p>	<p>Recommended changes to strengthen document and enhance alignment with Alberta Health Standards and CDSA. Reduces risk utilization of damaged instruments.</p>

## IPC Guidelines – Revision Summary

<p>Sterilizers (page 34)</p>	<p>Mechanical (physical) indicators (MI) are the gauges or displays on the sterilizer that measure physical parameters, such as cycle time, temperature, and pressure.</p> <p>Sterilizers are routinely equipped with printers and electronic data recorders and are checked following each load to ensure that correct parameters are met.</p> <p>When sterilizers are not equipped with recorders, loads are monitored, recorded, and stored to ensure that correct parameters are achieved.</p>	<p>Mechanical (physical) indicators (MI) are the gauges or displays on the sterilizer that measure physical parameters, such as cycle time, temperature, and pressure.</p> <p>Sterilizers are routinely equipped with printers and electronic data recorders and are checked following each load to ensure that correct parameters are met.</p> <p><b>Remove: When sterilizers are not equipped with recorders, loads are monitored, recorded, and stored to ensure that correct parameters are achieved.</b></p>	<p>Removal of wording will enhance alignment with Alberta Health Standards and the CDSA Standards.</p>
<p>Storage and Handling (page 39)</p>	<p>The storage and handling of sterilized instruments is the final step prior to instrumentation use. The chain of instrument reprocessing depends on the success of this step. The sterilized instrumentation is stored in such a way that maintains the integrity of the sterilized packages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store instruments in an enclosed clean, dry, dust-free area that is well-separated from soiled items/areas by barriers or distance.</li> <li>• Handle sterile packages minimally before use.</li> <li>• Before using a packaged instrument, ...</li> </ul>	<p>The storage and handling of sterilized instruments is the final step prior to instrumentation use. The chain of instrument reprocessing depends on the success of this step. The sterilized instrumentation is stored in such a way that maintains the integrity of the sterilized packages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store instruments in an enclosed clean, dry, dust-free area that is well-separated from soiled items/areas by barriers or distance.</li> <li>• <b>Add: Supplies are removed from corrugated and original shipping packaging. Removal occurs outside clean and sterile environments</b></li> </ul>	<p>Recommended changes to strengthen document and enhance alignment with Alberta Health Services infection prevention and control.</p> <p><a href="#">Corrugated Cardboard Boxes</a>  <a href="#">Continuing Care IPC Poster</a>  <a href="http://albertahealthservices.ca">albertahealthservices.ca</a></p>