Infection Control Procedures and Exposure Control Plan

Georgia Health Sciences University
College of Dental medicine: Revision 05102012

I. Exposure Determination and Hepatitis Testing ................................................................. 2
II. Training and Records ........................................................................................................ 2
III. Infection Control Procedures .......................................................................................... 3
IV. Preparation and Sterilization of Instruments ................................................................... 8
V. Infection Control Protocol in Dental Radiology ............................................................... 10
VI. Patient Treatment Materials .......................................................................................... 11
VII. Guidelines for Handling of Tissues Removed From Human Subjects in the College of Dental Medicine ................................................................. 12
VIII. Students/Patients with Communicable Diseases: Treatment Policies and Procedures ........................................................................................................ 13
IX. Health Care Workers with Communicable Diseases - Faculty and Staff: Policy and Procedures ........................................................................................................ 13
X. Student and Employee Health and Injuries ...................................................................... 14
XI. Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Post Exposure Management: General Procedures ........................................................................................................ 17
XII. Post Exposure-Hepatitis B & C Management: General Procedures ................................ 17
XIII. Compliance with Infection Control Procedures ............................................................. 17
Addendum 1: ............................................................................................................................. 18
Addendum 2: ............................................................................................................................. 18
Addendum 3: ............................................................................................................................. 19
Addendum 4: ............................................................................................................................. 19
Appendix 1: Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings 2003
Appendix 2: Infection Control Inspection Checklist ............................................................... 20
Appendix 3: GHSU College of Dental Medicine Garment Wear Policy .................................. 20
Appendix 4: Disposal of extracted teeth containing amalgam restorations .......................... 20
Appendix 5: Administration sanctioned visitors/observers in clinical settings ..................... 22
Appendix 6: Tuberculosis Infection Control Policy ................................................................. 22
I. **Exposure Determination and Hepatitis Testing**

A. Employees will be classified into Occupational, Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) categories I, II, or III according to 29 CFR 1910.1030 by the department chairman or the designated department individual within 10 working days of employment. The categories are as follows:

- **I.** Job requires exposure to blood, body fluids, or tissues (BBFT) as routine part of assignment.
- **II.** No exposure to BBFT normally but employee may be required to perform unplanned category I tasks.
- **III.** No exposure to BBFT and category I tasks as condition of employment.

The above determination will be based upon the job description prepared for GHSU employment. Employees include faculty, post-doctoral students and staff. Pre-doctoral students are, by definition, in category I.

B. At the time of employment and classification, the office of the Associate Dean for Business and Finance will determine whether the employee has been immunized against Hepatitis B Virus. All employees will be counseled and be encouraged to be immunized. The vaccine will be offered through employee health at no expense to the employee. If the employee desires to be tested for antibodies before vaccination, this will also be done, as will follow-up testing for seroconversion. Testing will be at no cost to employees who have not been immunized previously.

Employees who do not wish to receive hepatitis vaccine will be required to sign a refusal statement (See Addendum 1). However, should the employee later desire to be vaccinated, testing and the vaccine will be provided at no expense to the employee.

Employees who have been vaccinated previously but wish to be re-vaccinated, or tested for seroconversion may do so at their expense. Students are required to have initiated immunizations prior to admission to the College of Dental Medicine (CDM) and have been notified of this at the time of acceptance to school. It is recommended that students be tested for seroconversion 6-12 months after completing the initial series. This may be done through student health or a private laboratory (student’s expense).

C. Information on employee classification and hepatitis status shall be communicated to the Office of the Assistant Dean for Business within 10 working days of employment. The employee classification and vaccination status information will be maintained by the Office of the Associate Dean for Business and Finance.

II. **Training and Records**

A. Prior to beginning assigned duties, employees in OSHA categories I and II will receive training in infection control procedures in the dental setting as well as those procedures unique to our institutional setting. This includes epidemiology and modes of transmission of infectious diseases, the GHSU CDM exposure control plan, methods to reduce exposure, preparation and clean-up of the work site and steps to take in the event of exposure to an infectious disease. This training will be coordinated by the department responsible for the employee (See Addendum 2). The Infection Control Committee will be available to provide assistance. Training must be completed within 10 working days of beginning work. Each clinical specialty area will be responsible for developing and implementing acceptable training procedures for activities unique to the discipline. Specialty specific training will be in addition to standard requirements.

Newly trained staff should be monitored by their immediate supervisor for several days to ensure appropriate procedures are being followed. During this time period an evaluation of performance will be completed for each trainee. (Addendum 3). Upon completion of training the department must notify the Infection Control Committee and the office of the Associate Dean for Business Operations of successful completion so it may be recorded. Training records will be maintained by the office of the Associate Dean for Business and Finance.

B. Annual training in infection control is required. Training will be provided on three dates during the time period July through September each year. Personnel will be notified in June of the possible training possibilities. Training records will be maintained by the Associate Dean for Business and Finance.

C. Required Medical records will be maintained by Student or Employee Health.
III. Infection Control Procedures

Dental procedures are done in a septic environment that poses significant hazards to dental personnel and patients. Over the past several decades the problems have gradually become more complex. The use of equipment producing aerosols of saliva, blood and plaque has increased (high-speed handpieces, Prophy-Jet, Cavitron, air/water syringes). The number of patients seen by dentists has increased, as has the number of patients carrying life-threatening communicable diseases (hepatitis, AIDS, tuberculosis, etc.). Aseptic techniques and procedures are vital disciplines that must be learned, practiced and performed for every patient encounter. Patients often do not know that they carry life threatening diseases. This is the basis for standard precautions (previously known as universal precautions). Each patient must be treated as if he had a communicable disease.

The following guidelines have been developed for your protection and are consistent with recent guidelines and recommendations for infection control in dental practice published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health Care Settings 2003, MMWR Recommendations and Reports, Dec 19, 2003, Volume 52, Number RR-17) and the American Dental Association. These guidelines are the established standards of care in dental practice. Under the RULES OF THE GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY, Chapter 150-8, ETHICS, this point is addressed as follows:

Rule 150-8.03 Unprofessional Conduct Defined. The Board has the authority to refuse to grant a license to an applicant, or to discipline a dentist or dental hygienist in Georgia if that individual has engaged in unprofessional conduct. For the purpose of the implementation of this rule unprofessional conduct is defined as, but not limited to, practicing or in aiding the following:

- Failing to conform to current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preventing transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to patients. It is the responsibility of all currently licensed dentists and dental hygienists to maintain familiarity with these recommendations, which are considered by the Board to be minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing dental practice."

The responsibility for control of infection within dental clinical facilities, identification of potential sources of infection or cross-contamination and monitoring to maintain and assure compliance, on a daily basis, is the obligation of all dental students, post-doctoral students, faculty and auxiliary personnel. Non-compliance with infection control guidelines will be addressed immediately to correct the problem. It is the responsibility of all clinical personnel to identify and correct non-compliance issues. Serious or continued infractions by pre- and post-doctoral students, faculty or staff will be reported in writing to the Chair of the Infection Control Committee.

A. Basic Infection Control Guidelines

1. All treatment personnel MUST wear gloves and appropriate clinical attire (Personal Protective Equipment–PPE) during treatment.
2. All treatment personnel MUST wear properly fitting masks during treatment.
3. All treatment personnel MUST wear eye-protection (the type of eye protection is determined by the procedure). Protection from projectiles requires protection that meets American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z87.1 during treatment.
4. All instruments and items used in or near the oral cavity MUST be sterilized in an Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (ANSI/AAMI) approved device.
5. All "touch and splash" surfaces MUST be barrier protected or disinfected with an EPA registered, hospital-grade, tuberculocidal disinfectant.
6. All waste MUST be disposed of properly. Waste that meets the definition of “medically regulated” waste must be disposed of in properly marked bags and placed in designated medical waste containers. In dentistry, medically regulated waste is defined as contaminated sharps, blood and body fluids, tissues and disposable items that are soaked with blood or saliva.
7. If treatment personnel leaves an operatory, gloves MUST be removed.
8. All "touch and splash" surfaces should be barrier protected if possible. Items in the treatment area that are in the “splash and spray” zone or will be handled with contaminated gloves should be barrier protected.
9. Instruments and sterile supplies cannot be set up prior to patient arrival unless the operatory is in an access controlled environment where the person responsible for use of the items can maintain personal
reasonable surveillance of the equipment. For example, instruments cannot be set up and then left while personnel leave the area for lunch or at the end of the day. Instruments will no longer be considered safe for use after 15 minutes of unwrapped exposure to the environment.

B. Aseptic And Barrier Techniques:
Aseptic procedures are not designed to provide a sterile intraoral environment. Rather, the goal is to protect patients and dental personnel from cross-contamination or infection. The distinction among the terms "sterilization", "disinfection" and "cleanliness" is an important one. Sterilization is the use of physical or chemical agents to eliminate ALL microbial forms, including viruses and bacterial spores. Disinfection refers to the use of a chemical agent to reduce the number of microorganisms and reduce the capability of pathogenic microorganisms to transmit disease. Cleanliness is being free from dirt, debris or pollutants and is accomplished by using detergent and water or other cleaning agents.

C. Dental Personnel Cleanliness
The following guidelines apply to all clinic personnel including faculty, pre- and post-doctoral students, and staff who have patient contact and may come into contact with blood, body fluids, and tissues.

1. Personal Hygiene
Hair must be secured away from the face and cannot contact clinical surfaces during treatment.
Beards or mustaches must be covered by a face mask. A face shield must be used if facial hair is still exposed when the mask is properly worn.
Jewelry should not be worn on the hands or arms during patient treatment. This includes rings (other than wedding bands) and watches. Watches are discouraged due to contamination potential if the garment sleeve and gloves do not cover the watch area consistently.
Nails must be clean and short. Artificial nails have been shown to harbor microorganisms and are highly discouraged. Nail colors that prevent adequate evaluation of nail hygiene are prohibited.
Hand washing:
Hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection. It is mandatory before treatment, between patients, after glove removal, during treatment if the gloves are damaged, and before leaving the clinic area. See Table 1.

• Using the antiseptic soap provided, wash the hands twice for 15 seconds each prior to seeing the first patient. Hands should be washed to well above the wrists by vigorous and thorough scrubbing. They should be rinsed and then dried using fresh paper towels. Faucet handles are considered contaminated and should be turned off using dry paper towels.
• The hands must be washed for 15 seconds each time, after the initial cleaning routine. If hands are not visibly soiled, an alcohol based antiseptic hand rub is also adequate.
• Thoroughly dry the hands before putting on gloves.
• Surgical hand scrubs must be carried out as defined by the appropriate department.
Table 1. Hand Hygiene

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Duration (minimum)</th>
<th>Indication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Routine handwash</td>
<td>Water and nonantimicrobial soap (e.g., plain soap†)</td>
<td>Remove soil and transient microorganisms</td>
<td>15 seconds*</td>
<td>Before and after treating each patient (e.g., before glove placement and after glove removal). After barehanded touching of inanimate objects likely to be contaminated by blood or saliva. Before leaving the dental operatory or the dental laboratory. When visibly soiled. Before regloving after removing gloves that are torn, cut, or punctured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiseptic handwash</td>
<td>Water and antimicrobial soap (e.g., chlorhexidine, iodine and iodophors, chloroxylenol [PCMX], triclosan)</td>
<td>Remove or destroy transient microorganisms and reduce resident flora</td>
<td>15 seconds*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiseptic hand rub</td>
<td>Alcohol-based hand rubs</td>
<td>Remove or destroy transient microorganisms and reduce resident flora</td>
<td>Rub hands until the agent is dry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical antisepsis</td>
<td>Water and antimicrobial soap (e.g., chlorhexidine, iodine and iodophors, chloroxylenol [PCMX], triclosan)</td>
<td>Remove or destroy transient microorganisms and reduce resident flora (persistent effect)</td>
<td>2—6 minutes</td>
<td>Before donning sterile surgeon’s gloves for surgical procedures. It should contain 60%—95% ethanol or isopropanol and should not be used in the presence of visible soil or organic material. If using an alcohol-based hand rub, apply adequate amount to palm of one hand and rub hands together, covering all surfaces of the hands and fingers, until hands are dry. Follow manufacturer’s recommendations regarding the volume of product to use. If hands feel dry after rubbing them together for 10—15 seconds, an insufficient volume of product likely was applied. The drying effect of alcohol can be reduced or eliminated by adding 1%—3% glycerol or other skin-conditioning agents. After application of alcohol-based surgical hand-scrub product with persistent activity as recommended, allow hands and forearms to dry thoroughly and immediately don sterile surgeon’s gloves. Follow manufacturer instructions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water and non-antimicrobial soap (e.g., plain soap†)</td>
<td>Follow manufacturer instructions for surgical hand-scrub product with persistent activity**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Pathogenic organisms have been found on or around bar soap during and after use. Use of liquid soap with hands-free dispensing controls is preferable.

* Time reported as effective in removing most transient flora from the skin. For most procedures, a vigorous rubbing together of all surfaces of premoistened lathered hands and fingers for 715 seconds, followed by rinsing under a stream of cool or tepid water is recommended. Hands should always be dried thoroughly before donning gloves.

a Alcohol-based hand rubs should contain 60%—95% ethanol or isopropanol and should not be used in the presence of visible soil or organic material. If using an alcohol-based hand rub, apply adequate amount to palm of one hand and rub hands together, covering all surfaces of the hands and fingers, until hands are dry. Follow manufacturer’s recommendations regarding the volume of product to use. If hands feel dry after rubbing them together for 10—15 seconds, an insufficient volume of product likely was applied. The drying effect of alcohol can be reduced or eliminated by adding 1%—3% glycerol or other skin-conditioning agents.

** After application of alcohol-based surgical hand-scrub product with persistent activity as recommended, allow hands and forearms to dry thoroughly and immediately don sterile surgeon’s gloves. Follow manufacturer instructions.

D. Personal Protection

Routine use of barriers for personal protection, such as glasses, masks, gloves and isolation gowns are required when exposed to blood, saliva, gingival fluid and aerosols generated during treatment since all are considered to be contaminated and potentially infectious.

Departmental variations on these procedures are possible but these must be reviewed by the Infection Control Committee and approved in writing prior to implementation.

1. Clinical Attire

Appropriate clinical attire must be worn under the conditions described above. With the exceptions noted below, the following are guidelines for acceptable clinical attire.

a. Protective glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn when treating patients or performing lab work. These will be provided for faculty, staff and students use from the supply station in each clinic. Protective lenses should be washed when soiled. This may be done using detergent and water or an appropriate cleaning disinfectant.

b. A properly fitted mask must be worn and must be changed when wet or for each treatment session. When removing the mask do not touch the mask itself; use the strap(s). Never touch the mask or mask straps with gloved hands. Masks are always placed first before donning gloves.

c. Gloves must be worn for all patient contact. They must be changed between patients or if torn, worn or punctured. Hands must be washed or sanitized before donning and after removing gloves. Gloves are not to be worn outside of the operatory. Examination gloves are satisfactory for most procedures. Sterile surgical gloves are available for procedures which require them to be used. Gloves should fit over the knit cuffs of protective garments.

d. Long sleeve clinic jackets or isolation gowns are provided for faculty, post-doctoral students, pre-doctoral students and staff who assist at the chairside. These must be worn at all times during patient contact. Bare skin cannot be exposed when spray, splatter, or aerosols are anticipated. Garments shall be closed so that street clothes do not show above the neck. These gowns are not to be worn outside of the operatory area, nor are they to be worn in the simulation lab or laboratories. Patient treatment garments may not be worn in classrooms, office areas or personal offices. Garments should be changed after each
clinic session (a session is one-half day) or when visibly soiled. Clinic PPE cannot be worn into the Sterile Central Supply Area. Soiled disposable gowns are to be placed in the containers provided in the clinic areas. (See Appendix 3 for more detailed information)

e. In simulation labs, an appropriate lab coat (NOT the disposable clinic gown) must be worn.

2. Clinical protocol for the use of non-sterile gloves during routine dental care.
   a. Gloves are worn for the operator's protection AS WELL AS the protection of the patient. Examination gloves are dispensed by the box provided by the Central Supply station and are available in each clinic area.
   b. Gloves are to be worn in the operatory while involved in direct patient care or evaluation.
   c. When the student, faculty, post-doctoral student or assistant leaves the operatory for any reason, the gloves must be removed and discarded. Hands should be washed or sanitized.
   d. Upon return to the operatory hands must be washed or sanitized.
   e. When hands are gloved, practice scrupulous aseptic technique. Do not touch anything other than instruments and devices used in treatment. Remove gloves when obtaining items from supply carts.
   f. Should gloves become torn for any reason, immediately stop the procedure, remove gloves, thoroughly wash hands and re-glove.

3. Needle Recapping and Sharp Disposal
   Needles may be recapped for re-injecting the same patient; however they are not to be recapped using two hands. The cap should be placed on the counter or bracket tray, the tip of the needle placed in the cap and the cap "scooped" up onto the needle and tapped to place. Do not hold the cap with the other hand when putting the needle into the cap. The instrument cassettes contain a device for holding the needle cap. This also may be used. Uncapped needles may not be present on trays or other areas during treatment. Use a hemostat or cotton pliers to hold the capped needle when removing it from the syringe barrel. Used anesthetic needles and other "sharps" must be disposed of in the proper puncture-proof containers available in each treatment area. These are disposed of by environmental services. Anesthetic cartridges are not considered “sharps” or medically regulated waste (unless visible aspirated blood is present). They should be disposed of into safe containers such as empty plastic bottles or other containers and disposed of in the general waste. (See Appendix 7 for more details)

E. Dental Instruments/Items
   ALL INSTRUMENTS AND ITEMS USED INTRAORALLY MUST BE STERILIZED USING THE GSHU CDM CENTRAL STERILIZATION FACILITY

   No unpackaged instruments may be kept or stored for patient treatment! All instruments must be sterilized and packaged appropriately for use.

F. "Touch or Splash" Surfaces
   Those areas that do not ordinarily contact the patient directly or contact only unbroken skin, but may be splashed or touched by contaminated substances are "touch and splash" surfaces. These include the countertops, chairs and other surfaces. Proper disinfection, with an EPA registered hospital-grade, tuberculocidal disinfectant, is a reasonable means of controlling the risk of infection. Operatory countertops are not to be cluttered with extra supplies or personal items. Only those items necessary for immediate treatment are to be on the countertop. If paper records are being used, they should be kept away from the “touch or splash” areas.

G. Infection Control Outline: Step by Step
   One goal of the following infection control protocol is to assure complete operatory disinfection following patient treatment. This will minimize student operatory "set-up" time and maximize patient care time.

   1. Unit Set-Up
      a. Inspect the operatory for cleanliness. Clean any obvious debris with soap and water or an appropriate cleaner/disinfectant.
b. Collect disposable supplies:
   - Counter paper, bracket tray cover (instrument cassette wrapping may be used instead of bracket tray covers) and headrest covers
   - Plastic wrap or disposable covers
   - Red plastic waste bag with tape (as needed)
   - Disposable suction tips
   - Patient napkin
   - Mask, gloves, protective eyewear
   - Disposables (cotton rolls, gauze pads)
   - Unit dose items necessary for treatment
   - Other items necessary for treatment

2. Turn on the unit control.
3. If so equipped, rinse water bottles and perform waterline disinfection procedures (See Addendum 4) if needed, connect to appropriate unit. Units with disinfecting uptake tubing need no maintenance.
4. Flush water through all lines for 20-30 seconds. If a second patient is to be seen during that clinic period, flush all lines for 20-30 seconds prior to seating the second patient.
5. Small red trash bag are kept in the operatory for operator's convenience. This red bag is for medically regulated waste (teeth containing no amalgam, tissue, blood or saliva soaked items). Extracted teeth with amalgam restorations will require special handling. (SEE APPENDIX 4 for more details)
6. Don gloves
7. Place plastic wrap or fitted barriers around or over the following:
   - water faucet handle (shared sinks should be use foot controls only or be touched with sanitized ungloved hands)
   - natural gas outlet/air handles (when working in Prosthodontics)
   - air/water syringe handle – place the tip on the syringe first and then place the tip through the barrier and the barrier over the syringe handle
   - suction handles (high volume evacuator and slow speed saliva ejector)
   - dental light handles
   - dental light switch
   - Back of dental chair to cover patient positioning switches (if no foot controls are present)
   - CPU keyboard and mouse (Optional depending on type of procedure and departmental requirements)

   Under all circumstance, keyboards and mice are to be disinfected at the completion of patient treatment.
8. Attach saliva ejector, HV evacuator and dental handpieces. The sterile high-speed handpiece must be flushed before using. Place a sterile bur in the chuck, then flush with water by running it for 30-60 seconds. Wipe external surface dry. Replace sterilization wrap over handpieces to maintain cleanliness.
9. Arrange headrest cover, disposable patient supplies, mask, gloves and instruments in the operatory.
10. Barrier protect the keyboard and mouse for the CPU in the operatory if appropriate.
11. Remove gloves
12. Seat patient, place patient napkin and open the instrument kit. Students must obtain a faculty member's pretreatment evaluation before proceeding. Patients must wear safety glasses if any procedure will result in possible eye injury (rotary instruments, spray and splatter, passing instruments over face, etc.). If there will be a delay seating the patient the instruments must be covered and under supervision at all times. Instruments may not be left unattended or uncovered. If instruments are not used within 15 minutes of environmental exposure they should be turned in and a new set obtained for patient care.
13. Place mask and eye protection on face, sanitize hands, don gloves, perform dental treatment. Remove gloves and sanitize hands.
14. Record treatment rendered in Axium. If an entry must be made during treatment, handle only barrier protected computer entry equipment or remove gloves before touching unprotected computer equipment.
15. Dismiss patient.

H. Unit Cleanup and Disinfection
1. Wearing utility gloves, dispose of syringe needle, scalpel blades, or any other potentially sharp object in
the puncture proof "SHARPS" container. Handle with hemostats or cotton pliers. Remove anesthetic carpules (See Appendix 7 concerning disposal of carpules and medication vials) from the syringe barrel prior to removing the capped needle with hemostats or cotton pliers.

2. Dispose of amalgam scraps in the labeled containers located in clinics where restorative procedures are performed. Dry storage of amalgam waste is the most current recommendation. All amalgam waste must be disposed of through the Environmental Services Department. Amalgam mixing capsules must be closed and disposed of in the separate containers. (See Appendix 8)

3. Collect all blood or saliva soaked disposable patient items (cotton rolls, 2x2 gauze, Q-tips, cotton pellets) and place in the red plastic trash bag. Extracted teeth require special handling. See Appendix 4 for more information. All other waste is disposed of in the general waste receptacles.

4. Collect instruments and handpieces for subsequent sterilization.

5. Remove all surface covers and place in the operatory trash can.

6. Remove gross debris by washing obviously contaminated areas with a paper towel moistened with an approved liquid disinfectant or an appropriate pre-moistened disinfectant wipe.

7. Fill gallon jug with hot water, add soap. Insert saliva ejector/evacuator hoses into the soap solution and flush the suction lines with the content of the jug. (This may be scheduled maintenance in some departments)

8. The water bottle can be removed from the unit if so equipped. Water bottle with uptake disinfection straws should be left on the unit if so equipped.

9. Surface disinfection: Using a bottle of approved disinfectant spray operatory surfaces and wipe well with clean paper towels. Allow the surfaces to remain damp. Alternately, wipe surfaces with paper towels moistened with the disinfectant or a pre-moistened disinfectant wipe. All disinfectants should be removed after the appropriate contact time by wiping with a disposable towel.

10. Dispose of red plastic waste bag in the clinic's biohazard waste container.

11. Replace chairs, carts, light in proper position.

12. Remove gloves and wash hands.

13. Turn off unit control.

14. The responsible department will change or provide a clean suction trap weekly. See Appendix 8 for trap maintenance and amalgam disposal issues.

15. Procedures that involve removal of tissue not sent to pathology, tissue debris or teeth require special handling. See Appendix 4.

16. After Hours Dental Care (Other than scheduled clinics):

   a. Operatory cleanup will proceed in a normal manner in regard to waste disposal and surface disinfection. Under no circumstances may environmental surfaces be left contaminated. All non-disposable items and instruments must be cleaned of debris and returned to their storage containers. All used instruments will be placed in red containers designated for contaminated instruments and placed in instrument processing areas in clear view. No visible blood or contaminant should be left on the instruments. Used instruments are never left in patient treatment areas!

17. Personal electronic devices may be used in operatories at the discretion of individual departments. If electronic devices are permitted in the operatory area they should be used in a professional manner only to expedite or improve patient care. Personal use during patient care is prohibited. Electronic devices must be stored away from possible contamination and be operated using sanitized bare hands only.

IV. Preparation and Sterilization of Instruments

Instrument preparation for faculty, post-doctoral student, and student patient care will be completed by the Central Sterilization staff.

A. Acceptable Methods of Sterilization

   1. Steam under pressure:
2. Dry heat: 170°C (338°F) for 1-1.5 h or 160°C (320°F) for two (2) hours. Instruments must be completely dry and cleansed of organic debris prior to this process.

3. Ethylene Oxide or Hydrogen Peroxide Plasma Gas: This chemical is used at low temperatures, thus, the method of choice for heat-sensitive instrument/items. The sterilization cycle requires four (4) hours.

4. Chemical vapor: 132°C (270°F) at 20 psi for 20-30 minutes. The package wraps must be loose to allow the chemical vapors to condense on the instruments. Sealed trays will prevent penetration of the sterilizing vapors. Instruments MUST BE DRY PRIOR TO STERILIZATION or the chemicals will accumulate and corrosion will occur.

5. The Dental School Central Sterilization staff uses only steam under pressure or ethylene oxide/hydrogen peroxide low temperature systems to sterilize instruments/items.

B. Instrument Shelf Life

The sterile shelf life of packaged instruments is indefinite, as long as the package is intact. The package must be dated with the date sterilization was completed. Instruments for intraoral use must not be stored unwrapped. They may be stored in packages or trays. There must be evidence on the wrapping and inside the packaging, such as a sterilization indicator, indicating proper treatment. Instruments must be rewrapped and re-sterilized if there is evidence of damage to the wrapping. Instruments must be rotated for use according to the sterilization dates. First-in-First-out inventory control must be utilized.

C. Clinic Responsibilities for Instrument Handling

1. Only instruments with a GHSU CDM Inventory Control Bar Code will be accepted for sterilization procedures.

2. All instruments must be turned into Central Sterilization in a manner that will allow inspection before packaging for sterilization.

3. Multi-instrument specialty kits which allow selection of components based on size and shape (for example: Implant Drill Kits) will be packaged with an auxiliary container in which to place instruments that were actually used for patient care. All unused instruments will remain in the original kit. Used instruments will be placed in the auxiliary container to insure proper reprocessing prior to sterilization. Cleaning and debriding of all implant drills and components will be the responsibility of the clinical department using the kit. After proper debriding and cleaning the instruments will be placed in the auxiliary container for transportation to the Central Sterilization Area. Final inspection of all components will be the responsibility of Central Sterilization personnel. Items not cleaned and debrided to proper standards will be returned to the

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Table 4—Minimum cycle times for gravity-displacement steam sterilization cycles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Exposure time at 121°C (250°F)</th>
<th>Exposure time at 132°C (270°F)</th>
<th>Exposure time at 135°C (275°F)</th>
<th>Drying times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wrapped instruments</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>10-30 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile packs</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>25 minutes</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrapped utensils</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwrapped nonporous items</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>0-1 minute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwrapped nonporous and porous items</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>0-1 minute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE—This table represents the variation in sterilizer manufacturers’ recommendations for exposure at different temperatures. For a specific sterilizer, consult only that manufacturer’s recommendations.

Revision 05102012
clinical department for proper cleaning.

4. Instruments used at off-site facilities must be carried with care to insure the integrity of the packaging. Packaging should be inspected prior to opening and using instruments. Used instruments must be transported in closable leak proof containers with the appropriate bio-hazard warning clearly visible on the container.

V. Infection Control Protocol in Dental Radiology

A. Intraoral Radiographic Procedures

Operators must not assume that the x-ray operatories were cleaned and disinfected by the previous person. Before bringing the patient into the area, clean and disinfect all surfaces that may be touched, including the chair, entire tube head, counter surface and door knob.

1. Instrument Sterilization

All non-disposable instruments used for film positioning will be sterilized in an appropriate sealed container. The container must not be opened until the time of the radiographic procedure. At the completion of the radiographic procedure, the instruments must be returned to the proper area.

2. Personal Protection

The following items and their appropriate use are mandatory during any intraoral radiographic procedure:

   a. Disposable gloves
   b. The gloves must be worn for the procedure and then discarded.
   c. Mask
   d. Protective eyewear
   e. Appropriate clinical attire

3. Room Set-up

The following areas and items should be barrier protected prior to exposing radiographs:

   a. Chair headrest (Use disposable headrest cover)
   b. Bench area outside each operatory (Plastic wrap-on which the films and positioning devices are placed.)
   c. Exposure button (Plastic wrap)
   d. Control panel (Wrap all buttons and dials-both for those units inside and those outside the operator with Plastic)
   e. Door knob (Plastic wrap)
   f. Tube head and extension cone (Plastic wrap any portion of the tube head or support arms that may be touched)

4. Digital Processors – See Axium training site concerning the proper procedures for this area.

   http://podcasting.gcsu.edu/4DCGI/Podcasting/MCG/Episodes/3707/334392003.m4v

5. Operator Cleanup Procedures

Remove and discard the headrest cover and all protective plastic wrap (wear gloves).

Disinfect the entire tube head assembly and extension cone, the chair and head rest, the bench top outside the operatory, the doorknob if they were contaminated during the procedure. The protective aprons and thyroid shields must be disinfected if contaminated during the procedures.

B. Extraoral Radiographic Procedures

Under normal circumstances, the only area of potential contamination is the biteblock of the panoramic unit. The dispensary staff maintains a supply of sterilized and packaged bite blocks. A sterile biteblock should be appropriately positioned for each new patient. If special circumstances or patient management situations arise where a possibility of further contamination exists, then the particular areas should be covered with plastic wrap.
VI. Patient Treatment Materials

A. These policies are intended to preclude bringing any contaminated material from the operatory into the laboratory work area or from the laboratory into the operatory. Many items and procedures must be considered.

1. Non-disposable impression trays and facebow forks must be sterile prior to use. Facebow earpieces should be cleaned and disinfected with an approved liquid disinfectant.
2. Stainless steel bowls must be sterilized.
3. Sanitized rubber mixing bowls are provided by Central Sterilization.
4. Water bath inserts will be barrier protected and disinfected.
5. Shade guide teeth, articulators and hand torches must be sprayed and wiped with liquid disinfectant prior to patient use.
6. All interim prosthodontic items (acrylic resin trays, wax occlusion rims, record bases, etc.) must be disinfected if they are removed from the operatory during treatment. All interim prosthodontic items must be disinfected before they are removed from the operatory at the conclusion of patient treatment. Students are responsible for ensuring a faculty member or assistant observes the disinfection process.
7. Once an impression is made, thoroughly rinse off any saliva, blood, mucus or debris with a gentle stream of running water. Saturate the impression with an EPA-registered spray disinfectant. Allow the disinfectant to remain in contact with the impression for the proper time frame for disinfection. Rinse with water transport the clean impression to the laboratory. Do not send a contaminated impression or prosthesis to any laboratory. Do not remove the impression from the operatory unless it has been disinfected. Once disinfected, impressions are to be handled with bare hands (no gloves).
8. Casts - Cast may also be disinfected if they are contaminated by use in the operatory.
9. Cast trimmer - once the cast has been trimmed, rinse the cutting surface of the trimmer with tap water (2 plaster bowls full of water).
10. Articulators - disinfec following the guidelines for surface disinfection. Remove any gross debris; follow by careful cleansing with liquid disinfectant. Articulators can also be barrier-protected with plastic wrap. The most common areas to be wrapped are the posterior posts and the incisal pins. Casts may be loosely covered with plastic wrap to prevent contamination from interim prosthodontic step items during patient care.
11. Articulators must be disinfected before leaving the operatory.
12. Laboratory work areas - cover the work area with non-porous paper.
13. Prostheses/castings - work received from the dental laboratory or fabricated by the student should be washed with soap and water, disinfected with liquid disinfectant and rinsed well, prior to placing intraorally. Dental prostheses which have been inserted intraorally should be disinfected prior to grinding, adjusting and polishing outside the dental operatory or being returned to the dental laboratory.
14. For acrylic resin polishing, a plastic tray containing a bag of pumice and one rag wheel is to be used for each individual patient. After use, discard the pumice, plastic tray and rag wheel. The acrylic resin item must be disinfected prior to using the equipment.
15. All work submitted to the Fixed/Restorative or Removable/Prosthodontic laboratory must be turned in to the central case management area.

A "Barrier system" exists between patients and the Fixed, Removable Prosthodontic Laboratories or any commercial laboratories. This minimizes the possibility of patient-patient or patient-laboratory cross-contamination. This "Barrier System" is created by having all prosthodontic patient-related material submitted to the proper area properly disinfected. Acceptable patient-related materials will enter the laboratory system, have the appropriate work completed, returned to the Central Case Management Area, and packaged. The clinician will be notified that the patient-related material is completed and ready for retrieval.

B. Patient-related Materials Covered by These Policies:

All materials requiring the services of either the in-house Fixed or Removable Laboratory or a commercial laboratory.

These patient-related materials, with the following noted exception, will be submitted to and retrieved from the designated area properly disinfected.

Revision 05102012
Exception - Work requiring "Immediate Laboratory Attention", such as porcelain staining and glazing. Students must have faculty confirmation that patient-related material needs "Immediate Laboratory Attention."

Staining of porcelain cannot be disinfected and must be handled properly to avoid contamination of equipment and personnel while placing the article in a porcelain oven.

Retrieved Patient-related Material:

All work completed by a laboratory will be returned to the clinician in an industrially clean condition. All items must be disinfected prior to placing intraorally.

Completed patient-related material returned from one of the prosthodontic laboratories will be cleaned and packaged for return to the clinician. These items are safe to handle but must be properly disinfected before placing intraorally. It is the responsibility of the clinician to perform this disinfection step, preferably in front of the patient.

VII. Guidelines for Handling of Tissues Removed From Human Subjects within the College of Dental Medicine

A. Tissue Considerations

After careful consideration, the clinician should determine the disposition of the removed tissue. If there is no reason to suspect a pathologic process other than that which is clinically apparent, the specimen may be disposed of as regulated medical waste (except extracted teeth containing amalgam). If there is any doubt about the diagnosis, the tissue should be submitted for histopathologic examination in the routine manner. Teeth may be given to patients at their request.

All tissues, soft and hard (including teeth), for pathological examination are to be managed by placing them in the appropriate container and or solution. They will be transported to the pathology service in the properly labeled and designated container.

The dental record must reflect the reason for the removal of the tissue, a gross description of it, and the disposition for the tissue. When tissue is submitted for histopathological evaluation, the pathology report must be filed in the patient record, the patient must be informed of the diagnosis, and a record entry must be made to document that the patient has been notified.

B. Surgical Oral Pathology Biopsy Procedure Protocol

To protect persons handling and transporting biopsy specimens, each specimen must be placed in a sturdy, leak-proof container for transportation. Care should be taken when collecting the specimen to avoid contaminating the outside of the container. If the outside of the container becomes visibly contaminated, it should be cleaned and disinfected or placed in an impervious bag. The container must be labeled with the biohazard symbol during storage, transport, shipment, and disposal. Proper biopsy procedures will be prescribed by the department supervising the procedure.

C. CDC Recommendations for the Decontamination of Extracted Teeth For Use in Dental Educational Settings

Extracted teeth are occasionally collected for use in preclinical educational training. These teeth should be cleaned of visible blood and gross debris and maintained in a hydrated state in a well-constructed closed container during transport. The container should be labeled with the biohazard symbol. Because these teeth will be autoclaved before clinical exercises or study, use of the most economical storage solution (water or saline) may be practical. Liquid chemical germicides can also be used but do not reliably disinfect both external surface and interior pulp tissue. Before being used in an educational setting, the teeth should be heat-sterilized to allow safe handling. Microbial growth can be eliminated by using an autoclave cycle for 40 minutes, but because preclinical educational exercises simulate clinical experiences, students enrolled in dental programs must follow standard precautions when using these teeth in educational exercises. Autoclaving teeth for preclinical laboratory exercises does not appear to alter their physical properties sufficiently to compromise the learning experience. However, whether autoclave sterilization of extracted teeth affects dentinal structure to the point that the chemical and microchemical relationship between dental materials and the dentin would be affected for research purposes on dental materials is unknown.
Use of teeth that do not contain amalgam is preferred in educational settings because they can be safely autoclaved. Extracted teeth containing amalgam restorations should not be heat-sterilized because of the potential health hazard from mercury vaporization and exposure. If extracted teeth containing amalgam restorations are to be used, immersion in 10% formalin solution for 2 weeks should be effective in disinfecting both the internal and external structures of the teeth. If using formalin, manufacturer Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) should be reviewed for occupational safety and health concerns and to ensure compliance with OSHA regulations. Any teeth used for educational exercises with existing amalgam restorations must be handled with typical clinical care such as water spray, high speed evacuation, etc..

VIII. Students/Patients with Communicable Diseases: Treatment Policies and Procedures

A. Purpose:

Pre-doctoral dental students who are learning to provide care using currently recommended infection control procedures may not as yet have the knowledge and experience to treat patients who are in the contagious stage of an infectious disease. In addition, students who are in the contagious stage of an infectious disease may present an unnecessary risk to patients.

B. Policy

1. Palliative, emergency or other necessary treatment of patients who are in the acute contagious stage of a systemic infectious disease will be referred to more advanced pre-doctoral students, post-doctoral students, or faculty. These patients should not be referred to first or second year students or beginning juniors. Junior and senior students who are appointing patients for freshman and sophomores should be reminded that it is inappropriate to arrange for a freshman or a sophomore student to treat patients with acute communicable diseases. Secondly, faculty members are responsible for reviewing the health history with each patient. When they identify a patient with an acute communicable disease who is appointed with a beginning student, the faculty is responsible for assuring that the patient is referred to a suitable student, post-doctoral student or faculty member.

2. Patients with acute communicable diseases may not be appointed for competency examinations. These procedures require the patient to move from one operatory to another or require anonymous grading in which the faculty may not have access to the patient's health history. If a student proposes to treat any patient with a medically compromising condition, whether it is a communicable disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, etc., the student should discuss and have the written approval of the supervising faculty prior to the examination.

3. Students, staff, post-doctoral students and faculty in the College of Dental Medicine who are in the infectious phase of a transmissible disease are not allowed to treat patients.

C. Procedure

1. Treatment may be delayed on patients who are in the acute contagious phase of an infectious disease or referred to the faculty or post-doctoral students for necessary emergency treatment.

2. Any clinician who knows or has reason to believe that he/she is in the contagious stage of an infectious disease such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis, HIV infection, or any communicable disease that may affect their ability to safely perform patient care is required to report the information to the Associate Dean for Patient Services.

3. The Associate Dean for Patient Services will report the information to the Dean. The Dean may remove the clinician from clinical activities pending evaluation. The Dean will report this action to the President.

4. Any clinician with a disease as described above will be evaluated by an Assignment Review Committee of the GHSU College of Dental Medicine and by GHSU physicians to determine if the disease may impair the clinician’s ability and the extent of such impairment. The committee will report their findings and make recommendations regarding curriculum modifications/restrictions to the Dean. The Dean's decision is final for the College of Dental Medicine. The dean's decision may be appealed to the President in accordance with Board of Regents' policy. Failure of a student to report a known infectious disease may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

IX. Health Care Workers with Communicable Diseases - Faculty and Staff: Policy and Procedures.

See the GHSU policy on HBV, HCV and HIV
The purposes of this policy are twofold: 1) to ensure that reasonable accommodations are made for the health care worker with a communicable disease to enable them to function in the work place and to protect his/her privacy; and 2) to provide and maintain a safe working environment through the protection of patients and GHSU Hospital and Clinics health care workers.

A. Policy

1. Any College of Dental Medicine health care worker who knows or has reason to believe that she/he has HIV infection, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis or any communicable disease which may affect their abilities to safely treat patients or work in a clinical setting shall report this information to his/her department Chair who will report to the Dean. For the purpose of this policy, "health care worker" is defined to include all faculty, post-doctoral students and fellows, staff, and employees with patient care duties.

2. Health care workers with infections as described above (A1) shall not be subject to discrimination in employment practices.

3. All information related to the health status of a health care worker with known or potential infection or illness will be considered confidential information.

B. Procedures

1. Reporting

   a. Any health care worker, as defined above, who knows or has reason to believe that she/he has a communicable disease, as defined in 7-9A, is responsible for reporting the information to the department Chair who will report to the Dean. The Dean may inform those individuals who must have such information in order to assess the individual and make a recommendation regarding an appropriate work assignment, in accordance with section 7-9B. Additionally, if the health care worker performs services at the Medical College of Georgia Hospitals and Clinics, she/he is subject to the policies and procedures of the Hospital and Clinics and is responsible for any additional reporting requirements that may be contained therein.

   b. Failure on the part of the health care worker to report a known communicable disease, as defined in 7-9A,1, may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. As in any case involving suspension or termination, such decisions resulting from failure to report infection should be reviewed by the EEO office.

2. Assignment Review Committee

   a. The Dean will appoint an Assignment Review Committee to review the health care worker's case and make recommendations about the individual's scope of work duties.

   The Assignment Review Committee will be chaired by the Associate Dean for Patient Services. It will include, in addition to the Associate Dean for Patient Services, a representative from the involved clinical department and from the Infection Control Committee. The Hospital Epidemiologist will serve as a consultant to the committee. Other members may be appointed by the Dean if required.

   The Assignment Review Committee will:
   - Perform a confidential review of each health care worker's case, focusing on those work duties associated with risk of exposure for/to patients and/or other health care workers in the School.

   Based on the above stated reviews, recommend any necessary modification of the health care worker's duties, as well as indicate specific areas in which the health care worker is unable to function. The committee shall report to the Dean. The Dean's action is final for the College of Dental Medicine. The dean's decision may be appealed to the President in accordance with Regents' policy.

3. Counseling

   The Dean shall provide for appropriate counseling to each infected health care worker about the use of barrier precautions to protect patients and others from exposure. Failure to adhere to the barrier precautions may result in disciplinary action against the health care worker.

X. Student and Employee Health and Injuries

A. Employees who are classified in OSHA categories I and II will be tested at hire for tuberculin sensitivity
according to standard procedures. This will be done by Employee/Student Health. An annual risk assessment is performed for the CDM. Low risk category will be assumed unless personnel are notified by the Chair of the Infection Control Committee. No annual testing for employees is required in low risk facilities. Students are required to have annual testing by GHSU policy. If a possible exposure to an active TB disease patient occurs, testing of the employee will follow recommended guidelines. Individuals who seroconvert may be placed on a prophylactic antibiotic regimen, if recommended by Employee/Student Health. SEROCONVERSION DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE OR WILL GET TUBERCULOSIS. It means that you have been exposed to the extent that you have developed an immune response. The antibiotics are preventive. Tuberculin testing and any subsequent prophylaxis for students is done by Student Health.

B. Employees or students who are injured by contaminated sharps during patient treatment or at other times in the performance of their duties will terminate their participation in the procedure as expeditiously as possible, then notify Admissions using the appropriate phone number.

C. Event of a Blood borne Pathogen Exposure

In the event of a blood borne pathogen exposure, the Employee and/or Student will immediately stop the procedure in progress.

1. Patient/Employee/Student/Post-doctoral student: If a Patient, Employee, Student or Post-doctoral student treating, observing, or assisting on a patient is the injury recipient and the patient being treated is the source, the attending Faculty must be notified immediately. The attending Faculty will stabilize the patient to a point that work may stop on the procedure in progress.

2. Faculty: If a Faculty member working on a patient is the injury recipient and the patient being treated is the source, another Faculty member will be asked to stabilize the patient to a point that work may stop on the procedure in progress.

3. Admissions will be immediately notified.

4. An Admission employee will immediately notify Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at that an incident has occurred, and for a nurse to be ready to receive the source patient to draw blood for the lab. If a blood borne pathogen exposure occurs after 4 pm and a patient is directly involved, a nurse at Employee Health must be contacted to draw the patient’s blood for testing.

5. The Source and Recipient will proceed to Patient Admissions. Data collection will be done discreetly and involved parties will be counseled in a private area. The Blood borne Pathogen Exposure Packet contains:

   a. One (1) GHSU Student Incident Report Form: this form requests any and all information as required by, but not limited to, OSHA, CDC, and Georgia House of Representatives HB 1448.

   b. One (1) Medical College of Georgia Employee’s Report of Accident /Injury Form: this form requests any and all information as required by, but not limited to, OSHA, CDC, and Georgia House of Representatives HB 1448.

   One (1) Blood/Body Fluid Exposure Form: This form requests information as needed and required by Student and Employee Health.

   One (1) Clinical Immunology IV Lab Request Form**: This form is a request for evaluation for blood work drawn on the Source. Evaluation includes testing for:
   - HILV-III Antibody (EIA)
   - HbsAg: RPR and Hepatitis C

1. The Attending Faculty, Recipient, and Source will complete (as required) the appropriate Accident/Injury Form and Blood/Body Exposure Form.

*Two forms of the Clinical Immunology IV Lab Request form are used when an incident involves Visitor/Patient’s as both Recipient and Source. Each form is marked with the ID number followed by either an “R” or “S” as determined who the Source is and who is the Recipient.

2. The attending Faculty of a blood borne pathogen exposure is responsible for the following:
   a. Notifying the patient as soon as possible after the exposure has occurred.
   b. Counseling the patient about the exposure and HIV testing.

3. Upon completion of the blood borne pathogen exposure packets, the Recipient and Source will immediately proceed to the appropriate clinic area:
**Recipient:** Recipient is defined as that person who experiences exposure (e.g. parenteral, mucous membrane, intact skin exposure, or puncture exposure) to blood or substances during a course of treatment.

a. Student/Post-doctoral student. The Student or Post-doctoral student will proceed directly to Student Health with a copy of the Post Exposure Source Patient Data Form and with the Blood/Body Fluid Exposure form.
   - Upon arrival to Student Health, the Student or Post-doctoral student will sign in.
   - The Student or Post-doctoral student will complete the required forms and will be presented with a discharge form and counseled on the appropriate course of action to take until the results of the blood work of both the Recipient and the Source are determined. When blood is drawn on the Recipient, the ID number is followed with an “R” and the account number “A6001178” is also included on the label of the blood sample.

**Employee/Faculty.** The Faculty or Employee will proceed directly to Employee Health with a copy of the Post Exposure Source Patient Data Form and with the Blood/Body Fluid Exposure Form.
- The Employee/Faculty will check in with Employee Health.
- The Employee or Faculty will complete the required forms and will be counseled on the appropriate course of action to take until the results of the blood work of both the Recipient and the Source are determined. When blood is drawn on the Recipient, the ID number is followed with an “R” and the account number “A6001178” is also included on the label of the blood sample.

**Visitor/Patient:** The Visitor or Patient will be escorted directly to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with the Clinical Immunology IV Lab Request Form. The Visitor or Patient will have been counseled by the attending Faculty member as described in the Exposure section of the *Blood borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan.*
- The attending nurse in Oral Surgery will draw two (2) yellow topped vials of blood. The specimens will be handled in accordance with procedures set forth in the *Blood borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan, Policy: Standard Precautions, Section 13 (page 8).*
- The specimens will be labeled with the Incident ID number followed by an “R” and the account number “A6001178” is also included on the label of the blood samples. The specimens will immediately be transported to the Lab by the attending Employee from Admissions.

**Source:** The Source is defined as that person from whom the contamination (e.g., parenteral, mucous membrane, intact skin exposure, or puncture exposure to blood or substances during a course of treatment) extends.

a. Student/Post-doctoral student: The Student or Post-doctoral student will proceed directly to Student Health with a copy of the Post Exposure Source Patient Data Form and with the Blood/Body Fluid Exposure Form.
   - Upon arrival to Student Health, the Student or Post-doctoral student will sign in.
   - The Student or Post-doctoral student will complete the required forms

**Employee/Faculty:** The Faculty or Student will proceed directly to Employee Health with a copy of the Post Exposure Source Patient Data Form and with the Blood/Body/Fluid Exposure Form.
- The Employee/Faculty will check in with Employee Health.
- The Employee or Faculty will complete the required forms and will be counseled on the appropriate course of action to take until the results of the blood work of both the Recipient and the Source are determined. When blood is drawn on the Recipient, the ID number is followed with an “R” and the account number “A6001178” is also included on the label of the blood sample.

**Visitor/Patient:** The Visitor or Patient will be escorted directly to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with the Clinical Immunology IV Lab Request Form. The Visitor or Patient will have been counseled by the attending Faculty member as described in the Exposure section of the *Blood borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan.* The attending nurse in Oral Surgery will draw two (2) yellow topped vials of blood. The specimens will be handled in accordance with procedures set forth in the *Blood borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan, Policy: Standard Precautions, Section 13 (page 8).* The specimens will be labeled with the Incident ID number followed by an “S” and the account number “A6001178”
is also included on the label of the blood samples. The specimens will immediately be transported to
the Lab by the attending Employee from Admissions.

The clinic or area responsible for obtaining the result of the blood tests (of both Recipient and Source) as
well as providing post-test counseling is dependent on who is directly involved (i.e. the Recipient and/or
Source). The following chart dictates who is responsible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designated Area Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student/Post-doctoral student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Employee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. In the event that a Blood Pathogen Exposure occurs after the Source has left, every attempt must be made
to contact the Source as soon as possible to return for HIV counseling and to have blood drawn for
testing. The Source **must** return as soon as possible for the appropriate blood work, etc.

5. The Source has the right to refuse counseling and testing. If the Source is a patient, the College of Dental
Medicine reserves the right to refuse further treatment of that patient until testing is completed.

6. In the event that a Blood Pathogen Exposure occurs after Student/Employee Health has closed for the day:
the faculty, staff, resident, or student will be advised to report to the Emergency Room for appropriate
counseling/treatment. Please refer to the **Accident/Injury Protocol for Medical College of Georgia College of Dental Medicine** regarding responsibility of treatment.

XI. **Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Post Exposure Management: General Procedures**

All workers should be counseled according to the latest recommendations from the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention.

XII. **Post Exposure-Hepatitis B & C Management: General Procedures**

All workers should be counseled according to the latest recommendations from the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention.

XIII. **Compliance with Infection Control Procedures**

Monitoring of student compliance with infection control policies is done by the faculty and staff. Representatives
of the infection control committee also conduct unannounced observations. Areas in student grading modules can
be used to make comments concerning infection control procedures. All violations of these safety policies may be
reported through representatives of the Infection Control Committee or any other supervisory chain from any
employee or student of the College of Dental Medicine. Violations of these policies are subject to disciplinary
actions and can result in suspension of clinical privileges in the College of Dental Medicine clinics.
Addendum 1:

| Part Number: | 1910 |
| Part Title:  | Occupational Safety and Health Standards |
| Subpart:     | Z |
| Subpart Title: | Toxic and Hazardous Substances |
| Standard Number: | 1910.1030 App A |
| Title:       | Hepatitis B Vaccine Declination (Mandatory) |

I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials I may be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, at no charge to myself. However, I decline hepatitis B vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B, a serious disease. If in the future I continue to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and I want to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, I can receive the vaccination series at no charge to me.

Addendum 2:

New employees must receive training in the following areas and also those that are specific to their job site:

3. Epidemiology of Blood borne Pathogens and Infectious Diseases [Available on the CDM website]
4. Department specific training on clinic specific procedures to include operatory preparation, operatory clean-up and specialty specific operations.
5. Self-Assessment Exam after reviewing appropriate training material. [Available on the CDM website]

Item 4 must be completed in the appropriate department. This department specific training must be documented in writing with the content of the training outlined, the name of the trainer, the date and then forwarded to the Associate Dean for Business Operations for record keeping.
Addendum 3:

Monitoring of new staff must be accomplished and documented. The employees’ immediate supervisor or their designee will use the following checklist to record performance of the new employee. The completed checklist will be forwarded to the Assistant Dean for Business Operations for recordkeeping purposes.

a. Employee is knowledgeable concerning proper use of protective equipment needed for patient care or laboratory procedures:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required

Employee uses correct procedures for handling disposable “sharps” items:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required

Employee uses proper barrier protection for “splash and spray” surfaces:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required

Employee has received Chemical Hazard Information concerning cleaning agents and chemical disinfectants and uses them according to manufacturer’s recommendations:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required

Employee demonstrates correct procedures for clean-up and set-up of patient care area:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required

Proper hand washing techniques used by the employee:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required

Specialty specific operations concerning infection control performed correctly:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required

Employee knows the proper protocol for an injury or event that causes a possible exposure to a blood borne pathogen:

☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Addition Training Required
Addendum 4: Waterline Maintenance Protocol

Units are protected by chemical treatment from a centralized location. No user maintenance is required. If water bottle use is required for longer than one clinic day please contact the Infection Control Committee Chair for assistance in returning a chair to normal plumbed operation.

Appendix 1: Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings 2003
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm

Appendix 2: Infection Control Inspection Checklist
Clinical inspections shall be performed randomly in each clinical area on a periodic basis. The results will be addressed and corrections made as needed. The documentation of the inspection will be recorded on the checklist and notations concerning actions taken will be kept on the form. These forms will be turned into the Infection Control Committee for review.

Appendix 3: Garment Wear Policy

1. Clinics and departments may make decisions concerning what will constitute general garments for wear in non-treatment situations. Clothing may be “street clothes”, scrubs or other appropriate professional dress that meets the CDM Dress code. These garments may not be worn uncovered during patient care procedures other than casual examinations not requiring instrumentation other than a mirror.

2. Garments for patient treatment must meet the standards of care for the practice of dentistry. For procedures that may produce any splatter, spray or other possible contamination, the garment must have long sleeves and be closable at the neck. For the purpose of clarity and to insure proper use of garments, this definition will mean any patient care other than a casual examination. These clinical care garments may not be worn (except for casual pass thru traffic) in other areas of the building to include offices, classrooms, meeting rooms, break areas and dental laboratories (dental laboratories are considered “clean” areas and only items that have been properly disinfected may be carried into those areas). Clinical garments should ideally be left in the operatory if clinicians are leaving the treatment area to accomplish administrative tasks or laboratory work and plan to return to the treatment area. Laboratory coats or disposable aprons should be worn in the laboratory areas.

3. Faculty, post-doctoral students and clinical staff may wear clinic garments in the performance of their supervision duties throughout a general clinical area; however they should not be worn into office areas except for casual pass thru of the area. Chairs and tables in clinical areas where patient care occurs (example-chairs and tables in Clinic bays) shall be considered part of the clinic and as such are “contaminated” areas and clinic garments can be worn in those areas.

4. Clinical garments are considered “contaminated” and should be turned inside out and placed on a hook or hanger for storage.

5. Exceptions: Faculty in supervisory roles may choose to wear a disposable garment for an entire clinic day if little or no contamination was encountered. If garments are to be used over more than one clinic session they should be removed, turned inside out for transportation and stored in such a manner as not to expose the outside of the garment. Disposable garments cannot be worn for more than one full day of clinic activity.

6. Garment Color Code:
   I. Faculty: White “laboratory” type coats for classrooms, preclinical areas, etc... White long sleeved closable disposable clinic jacket for patient care. (See Figure 1)
   II. Post-doctoral students: White “laboratory” type coats for classrooms, preclinical areas, etc... White long sleeved closable clinic jacket for patient care. (See Figure 1)
   III. Pre-doctoral students: White “laboratory” type coats for classrooms, preclinical areas, etc... Blue long sleeved closable clinic jacket for patient care. (See Figure 2)
   IV. Staff with patient cares responsibilities:
      a. Long sleeved closable clinic jacket for all patient contact procedures.(Color may vary)
(See Figure 3)

b. For non-patient contact duties: Non-disposable jackets of various color combinations.

V. Staff with no patient care responsibilities: Non-disposable jackets of various color combinations.

7. Any exposed non-disposable name badges should be washed with soap and water after patient care.

8. Non-disposable garments are not contaminated as they are not used during patient care and are the responsibility of the individual in regard to laundering and maintenance.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Chair, Infection Control and Hazards Committee
Appendix 4: Disposal of extracted teeth containing amalgam restorations

1. All teeth with amalgam restorations must be handled in accordance with the GHSU waste management processes.

   A. The regulated medical waste stream (Red Bag Waste) at GHSU will not accept any medical waste containing amalgam due to the process they use for final disposition of the waste.

   B. Extracted teeth containing amalgam can be handled by two methods:

      1. Return the teeth to the patient if they desire

      2. Disinfect the teeth with a hospital level disinfectant for the appropriate contact time, rinse, allow to dry and store in a sealable container. Place the disinfected teeth in a sealable rigid container for storage. See the CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Setting –2003, MMWR December 19, 2003, VOL 51/No. RR-17, p. 33 for more information. The container will be turned into the Central Sterilization Service (CSS) for final disposal.

   3. Collection of teeth in local clinics should not exceed one week before turning in the teeth to the CSS.

   4. The CSS will contact GHSU Environmental Health and Occupational Safety Office for pick up as needed.

   C. Under no circumstances can extracted teeth with amalgams be placed in the medically regulated waste stream or sterilized by steam or other mechanical/chemical sterilizers.

2. If the tooth does not contain amalgam it is placed in a small red regulated waste bag and segregated from the other medically regulated waste. Extracted teeth should be collected in a larger container appropriately labeled. It will be collected for incineration. Seal the bag and notify the CSO by e-mail for pick up the following

   Wednesday (no database waste pickup request is needed for this type of waste). Do not place teeth in the large Red Bagged Box.

Appendix 5: Administration sanctioned visitors in clinical settings

1. Dental school applicants and other visitors that are sanctioned by the administration of the College of Dental Medicine have access to the operatory and laboratory facilities in the College of Dental Medicine when escorted by a representative (faculty, administrator, student) of the school.

2. Any visitor observing patient treatment in treatment room will comply with all policies concerning proper personal protective equipment. Disposable garments will be issued as necessary. Observers must wear gloves, eye protection and masks if there is any chance of exposure to body fluids or contaminated objects.

3. Observers and visitors may not participate in the care of any patient.

4. Family members or guests of patients may not be present in the treatment areas for health and safety reasons. Persons necessary for patient safety during treatment such as care providers and translators may be allowed to be present if the treatment area has necessary space and can accommodate the individual safely.

Appendix 6: Tuberculosis Infection Control Policy

1. A risk assessment of the CDM facility is conducted annually. The results of this assessment indicate the TB risk for the CDM has been determined to be low by the assessment recommended by the CDC and information in the CDC Guidelines for Preventing Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings, 2005, MMWR December 30, 2005, VOL 54/No. RR-17.

2. The basic policy for the CDM is not to perform any procedures on confirmed or suspected infectious TB patients in any facility in the CDM. Only emergent care should be considered for infectious TB patients and that care shall be performed in facilities designed and equipped for treating such patients in a hospital based
health care setting. Coordination for such emergent care will fall under the Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Service Department and will be carried out according to the management plan in a MCGHI hospital based health care facility.

3. All staff will be trained on the signs and symptoms of active infectious TB disease and the staff shall immediately isolate and provide a surgical mask to any patient that presents with positive responses on medical screening or signs and symptoms consistent with active TB infections. Strict respiratory and cough hygiene/etiquette procedures should be followed. Prompt referral to a medical facility for evaluation must occur. No dental treatment should be accomplished on any patient suspected of having an active TB infection. (See paragraph 2).

4. TB screening for staff will occur upon hire (See GHSU Health Care Worker Health Screening Policies at: http://www.georgiahealth.edu/hr/documents/2011%20Employee%20Handbook_v2.pdf

Annual screening is no longer recommended by the CDC for employees in low risk facilities. Tuberculin skin tests are required if an employee is exposed to a patient with an active TB infection.

Appendix 7: Anesthetic Carpules and Medication Vials

Empty medication vials are the same category as empty anesthetic carpules and may be disposed of in the general trash. The CDM encourages the use of empty containers such as saline bottles, empty Cavicide Wipe containers or empty alginate containers to discard and collect these glass components to prevent breakage in the regular garbage. These containers would be discarded into the regular trash when full.

Carpules or vials with medication of more than 3% volume present must be collected in buckets provided by Chemical Safety Office (CSO). Upon being filled, complete a waste pickup request and Chemical Safety will pick them up the following Wednesday (Contact CSO at 1-2663 for guidance in this process)

Carpules that have been, or are suspected to be contaminated with blood are to be disposed in a biohazard red bagged waste box.

Appendix 8: Scrap Amalgam and Unit Trap Maintenance

Scrap Amalgam Containers must be labeled according to the newest American Dental Association standards. Also, used amalgam capsules must be collected for scrap disposal in separate containers from the scrap amalgam.

The containers should be labeled: "Amalgam Scrap For Recycling" or "Amalgam Capsules For Recycling"

If the clinic has disposable traps, they should not be emptied and thrown in the regular trash but disposed of in closable containers labeled: "Contact Amalgam Scrap For Recycling". CSO will pick up full containers for proper recycling.

If the traps are not disposable they should be emptied into containers labeled: "Contact Amalgam Scrap For Recycling" and the traps should not be rinsed prior to replacing them in the unit.