



TOOLKIT 14 · AMBULATORY CLINIC & DENTAL · TOOL 3 OF 6

Dental Infection Control — Instrument Reprocessing and Waterline Checklist

Between every patient, every day, every week. The steps that make a dental chair safe, from the CDC summary

Between every patient	
☐	Gloves, mask, eye protection changed; hand hygiene
☐	Surfaces disinfected or barriers changed: chair, light handle, tray, controls, suction, X-ray head
☐	Handpieces and scaler tips removed, cleaned and sterilised (never just wiped)
☐	Suction lines flushed; waterlines flushed 20–30 seconds
☐	Sharps disposed; single-use items discarded
Instrument reprocessing — every load	
☐	Transported in a closed container to the dirty zone
☐	Cleaned (ultrasonic or washer, or manual with brush and detergent) — visibly clean before packaging
☐	Inspected, packaged with an internal chemical indicator
☐	Steam-sterilised at 134 °C for 3 min (or 121 °C for 15 min); cycle printout or log kept
☐	External indicator checked; packs stored dry, dated, rotated
Sterilisation monitoring	
☐	Every load: mechanical (time, temperature, pressure) and chemical indicators
☐	Weekly: biological indicator (spore test) — result logged; if positive, quarantine loads and service the autoclave
☐	Monthly: autoclave maintenance check
Dental unit waterlines	
☐	Flush all lines 2 minutes at the start of the day and 20–30 s between patients
☐	Treat lines with the manufacturer's product on the stated schedule
☐	Test water quality at least monthly: ≤ 500 CFU/ml heterotrophic bacteria; log results
☐	Sterile water or saline for surgical procedures

Week beginning	Spore test date · result	Waterline treatment done	Waterline test result	Autoclave maintenance	Signed
		☐		☐	
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Adapted from CDC, Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings (2016).

ASF standards: Ambulatory dental endorsement — infection control; Standard 3 — sterilisation (means of verification: logs)