



Universal Precautions in Dental Facilities: Patients' Rights

Healthcare facilities providing services in which there is a risk of skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact to human blood or other potentially infectious materials must practice Universal Precautions. Universal Precautions prevent disease transmission and are a part of the overall approach for infection control in healthcare facilities. Universal Precautions should be used with all patients.

_____ complies with infection control practices required by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), which were adopted by Indiana law and include Universal Precautions, the rules and regulations of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA), and the recommendations for infection control in dental facilities adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The following infection control practices include, but are not limited to, those required by the Indiana Universal Precautions Rule 4 (410 IAC 1-4) and are used to prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogens to patients, the treating staff, and the public:

PROTECTIVE BARRIERS ARE USED – Includes the appropriate use of gloves for skin contact, masks, gowns, laboratory coats, and protective eyewear (or face shields) for procedures that may have the potential of creating a spray or splatter of blood or other potentially infectious materials.

HAND HYGIENE – Hands are washed both before and after each patient contact.

INSTRUMENTS ARE STERILIZED AFTER EACH USE – Contaminated, heat-stable, non-disposable instruments which require sterilization and are contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials are heat sterilized after each patient use. Single-use, disposable equipment and products are preferred.

PREVENT INJURIES BY SHARPS – Discard needles, syringes, and other contaminated sharp objects in a puncture-resistant container.

SURFACES AND EQUIPMENT ARE CLEANED AND DISINFECTED AFTER EACH PATIENT USE – Surfaces and equipment contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials that cannot be sterilized are cleaned and disinfected after each patient use. Disposable coverings may be used on some surfaces to prevent contamination.

INFECTIOUS WASTE IS PLACED IN PROPER CONTAINERS – Containers should be labeled with the biohazard symbol, be impervious to moisture, and be of sufficient strength to prevent discharge.

INFECTIOUS WASTE CONTAINERS – Containers are stored in a secured area prior to final disposal.

STAFF RECEIVE ANNUAL TRAINING – Infection control training is refreshed every year. The infection control procedures listed, and others that are not readily observable, protect you from disease transmission. Indiana law requires that healthcare facilities be committed to the appropriate use of Universal Precautions. Any deviation from this commitment should be brought to the attention of _____ at this facility.

If you are not satisfied with the explanation of Universal Precautions provided by this dental facility, you may file an official complaint in writing with the Indiana State Department of Health.

Mail Complaints to:

Oral Health Program, 2-F
Indiana State Department of Health
2 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

For questions, please call: 317-233-1383