



**PRISONS**  
**Health and Wellness Services**  
**Policies and Procedures**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Dental Clinic Infection Control and Workplace Safety</b>			
<b>Section</b>	TX V-2	<b>Issue Date</b> 11/10/20	<b>Supersedes Date</b> May 2013	<b>Next Review Date</b> 11/21

**References**

**Performance-Based Standards and Expected Practices for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 5-ACI-6A-12 (M), 5-ACI-6A-17 (M), 5-ACI-6A-19; NC Safety, Occupational and Environmental Health Section E – 2; 10A NCAC 41A.0206; 10A NCAN 15.1603 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Health Promotion, NC Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE); Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**I. PURPOSE**

To prevent the spread of infection and maintain a safe workplace for staff and patients.

**II. POLICY**

Dental clinics are required to follow standard precautions for the prevention and control of bloodborne and respiratory infection transmission and will implement control measures to promote workplace safety. Infection control and workplace safety regulations have been promulgated by CDC, OSHA, EPA, SPICE and other applicable regulatory agencies. Dental clinics will comply with all infection control and workplace safety regulations.

(a) Infection Control

(1) Bloodborne Pathogens

Each dental clinic will develop a written bloodborne pathogen Exposure Control Plan (ECP). Infection control procedures used in the dental clinic will be incorporated therein and will be consistent with the Health Services Manual Infection Control policies and



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Safety, Occupational & Environmental Health Manual Policy E-2, Bloodborne Pathogens. Staff will have ready access to the ECP. Training will be provided to new employees and all staff will schedule ongoing annual training in LMS. Training records will be on file and available for inspection.

(2) Respiratory Pathogens

- (A) In response to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, CDC and OSHA have provided guidance and recommendations to protect dental staff and patients from respiratory pathogens. The virus is thought to be spread primarily between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes and speaks. It has also been shown to persist in aerosols and on environmental surfaces. Every patient should be managed as a suspected carrier of the virus unless the patient has documented immunity.
- (B) The practice of dentistry requires equipment that produce sprays and aerosols which may be contaminated by respiratory pathogens from the patient. Staff are required to follow a multifaceted safety protocol that includes patient management, equipment considerations, administrative controls, work practices, hand and respiratory hygiene, engineering controls, universal source control, personal protective equipment (PPE), environmental infection control and sterilization and disinfection of patient-care items. Refer to the Pandemic Patient Management Plan in the Dental Services Manual for detailed instructions on protocols for clinic operations. In addition, staff are required to wear respiratory protection (N95 mask or acceptable alternative approved by CDC) when treating suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients and when performing aerosol-generating procedures. Refer to the Dental Services Respiratory Protection Program for guidance; this program is a component of the Safety, Occupational and Environmental Health Policy D-2, Respiratory Protection.



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(b) Workplace Safety

(1) Hazardous Chemical Communication Program

Each dental clinic will develop a written Hazardous Communication Program (HCP). An inventory of chemicals used in the Dental Clinic will be included in the program. Dental staff will comply with the requirements of the program, such as the manner chemicals are stored, usage logs, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), and actions required when chemicals are spilled or there is a staff exposure. HCP training will be provided to new employees and all staff will schedule ongoing annual training. Training records will be on file and available for inspection.

(2) Radiation Safety

Each dental clinic will develop a written radiation protection program as required by Section .1603 of the North Carolina Regulations for Protection Against Radiation (<http://www.ncradiation.net/regs.htm>). The template for the program is on the Dental Services internal webpage. New employees will receive training and all staff will schedule ongoing annual training. Training records will be on file and available for inspection.

(3) Amalgam Separator and Recycling

Each clinic will have an installed amalgam separator that meets EPA regulations. The separator will be operated according to the manufacturer's recommendations and used filters and scrap amalgam will be recycled according to the manufacturer's instructions. Purchase replacement filters that include disposal.

(4) Other Workplace Safety Requirements


(A) Dental staff will wear OSHA-mandated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whenever there is the possibility for exposure to bloodborne or respiratory pathogens or other potentially infectious material (OPIM).



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- (B) Offenders receiving treatment will be provided protective eyewear.
- (C) Biohazardous waste will be disposed according to Federal and State regulations.
- (D) Each autoclave will have daily color indicator strip testing for each cycle and weekly spore testing according to procedures specified in the Dental Services Manual.
- (E) Dental instruments (tools) will be stored and inventoried in accordance with the Division tool control policy and procedures specified in the Dental Services Manual.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 11/10/20  
 Todd E. Ishee Date  
 Commissioner of Prisons