# **Purpose:** This document assesses the dental assistant (or other dental staff) in demonstrating proper infection control techniques before, during and after patient treatment. This document may be modified according to requirements of the local IHS, tribal, or urban dental facility. The IHS Division of Oral Health recommends that trainings and competency assessment be conducted for new hires, after changes in policies/standing operating procedures, and at least annually for all applicable staff, with follow-up training as needed. The Dental Assistant/Staff Competency Assessment should be conducted by a clinic’s dental infection control coordinator, or dental director/deputy, or dental assistant supervisor trained in dental infection control.

# **Post-Assessment:** Following the review, the IHS Division of Oral Health recommends: (1) staff be trained/re-trained on any deficiencies and demonstrate competency in any deficiencies following the re-training; and (2) this document should be maintained in the dental department in accordance to the facility’s file plan procedures.

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| **Elements To Be Assessed/Standards** | **Evaluation** | **Comments** |
| ***Training Provided*** | ***Met*** | ***Not Met*** | ***Not Applicable*** |
| ***INSTRUMENT PROCESSING INFECTION CONTROL COMPETENCIES*** |
|  **1. General** |
| * Uses appropriate PPE for procedure (ASTM level III mask) puncture resistant gloves, gowns as needed) while processing instruments for sterilization. (OSHA Standard,ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017:4.5.1, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ensures proper cleaning and maintenance of sterilization equipment per manufacturer’s Instructions For Use (IFU) or document method of cleaning.ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017:7.3
 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  **2. Pre-Cleaning/ Transport Instruments** |
| * Follows IFUs for pre-cleaning and pre-treatment of instruments. ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017:7.4.1
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| * Removes gross debris (e.g., bioburden, cement and impression material) during the procedure. Use gauze or wipes wetted with treated water (per IFU) before debris dries. (ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017: 6.3.1, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Ensures instruments are free from gross contamination or bioburden before transport to instrument processing area. (CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Uses a rigid, leak-proof, puncture-proof, closable container that is red or contains a biohazard label. (OSHA requirement, ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017:6.4, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Uses a pretreatment spray, gel or foam on the instruments before transport **as needed** to prevent the drying of blood and/or other contaminates on the instruments. (ANSI/AAMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| ***INSTRUMENT PROCESSING INFECTION CONTROL COMPETENCIES (continued)***  |
| * Transports contaminated items according to local policies. Contaminated transport containers must be disinfected with an EPA registered, intermediate-level disinfectant (per IFU). (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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|  **3. Instrument Cleaning /Decontamination**  |
| * Follows manufacturer’s IFUs for proper cleaning, decontamination, sterilization and disassembly procedures for all items. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Inspects all instruments/devices/kits and removes & replaces those that are missing, damaged, or defective (i.e., broken, cracked, pitted, misaligned, rusted, dull edges, etc.) Follows local policy for instruments that require disposal or repair (IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Debrides instruments in ultrasonic cleaner and/or cleans in washer per manufacturer’s instructions. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * When using an ultrasonic, drains basket or utilizes mechanical device to lift out individual instruments. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * If manual cleaning of instruments occurs, uses safe handling procedures. This is not the preferred method. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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|  **4. Packaging**  |
| * Inspects instruments after decontamination to ensure instruments are free of debris, corrosion and defects. Re-cleans instruments w/debris and replace corrosive and defective instruments. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017).
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Instruments are dry before being packaged. Instruments are open, unhinged or disassembled in agreement with instrument’s IFUs. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Selects container or wrapping/packaging system that is compatible to method of sterilization. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Uses appropriate internal and external chemical indicators for each package/load (may be integrated into the package design) (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Packages sharp instruments so they don’t protrude from the package or cassette (Uses FDA approved tip protectors) (IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Labels packages with date of sterilization, load number, initials of packager and sterilizer number if multiple sterilizers are used. ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| **Elements To Be Assessed/Standards** | **Evaluation** | **Comments** |
| ***Training Provided*** | ***Met*** | ***Not Met*** | ***Not Applicable*** |
| ***INSTRUMENT PROCESSING INFECTION CONTROL COMPETENCIES (continued)*** |
|  **5. Sterilization**  |
| * Follows manufacturer’s instructions for the loading and operation of the sterilizer (autoclave) ensuring that packs are loaded in a manner that allows for steam penetration. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Sets autoclave controls for the appropriate type of packaging and instruments being sterilized. Uses only FDA-cleared medical devices and instruments for sterilization and sterilizes them per manufacturer’s instructions. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Ensures items with similar cycle variables (e.g., time and temperature) are grouped together for reprocessing. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017).
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| * Follows the sterilizer IFU for loading instruments. Instructions for loading cassettes and paper- plastic pouches may vary depending on the sterilizer type (e.g., floor-size and table-top) and the manufacturer. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Verifies the appropriate programmed cycle matches the instrument’s IFU. Ensure proper time, temperature and pressure are selected for instruments being sterilized. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Allows sterilizer to complete drying cycle. Packages are not hot or moist when removed/handled and stored (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Verifies physical parameters (time and temp) have been met at end of cycle. (proper temp, pressure and time have been achieved) Verifies chemical indicators (internal and external) have passed. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Inspects sterile packages. Re-processes and repacks compromised packages. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Ensures biological monitoring is logged weekly. Individual facility policy can be more stringent. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Can describe proper procedure for reprocessing failure. (e.g., positive biological test, CI failure, inadequate time or temp) (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Completes autoclave log each time autoclave is run or maintenance is performed. (IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| ***INSTRUMENT PROCESSING INFECTION CONTROL COMPETENCIES (continued)***  |
| * Verifies knowledge and performance of routine maintenance of sterilizer (autoclave) per manufacturer’s recommendations. (IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| **6. Instrument Storage** |
| * Stores sterile instruments in a manner in which sterility is maintained. **DOES NOT** stack cassettes. **DOES NOT** place packages under heavy items that can crush or damage packages. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, CDC Guidelines, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| * Stores sterile packages in close/covered area. (ANSI/AMMI ST79:2017, IHS Oral Health Program Guide).
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| ***Total Score (# Met, Not Met, Not Applicable)*** |  |  |  |  |  |

# For more information on infection control/prevention in dentistry, please see the infection control chapter of the Oral Health Program Guide at [www.ihs.gov/doh,](http://www.ihs.gov/doh) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Infection Control Checklist at [http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/pdf/safe-care-checklist.pdf.](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/pdf/safe-care-checklist.pdf)

Supervisor Name (Print):

Supervisor Signature:

Date:

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