



## **Dev's Dental Practice-Cross Infection Control Policy**

At Dev's dental practice, patient safety and infection control are paramount. To ensure the well-being of our patients and staff, we adhere to strict infection control procedures that meet or exceed industry standards. This policy outlines our approach to preventing the transmission of infections within our practice and maintaining a sterile, safe environment for all.

### **1. Infection Control Standards**

We strictly follow the infection control guidelines set forth by the NHS and local health authorities. Our staff are regularly trained and kept up to date with the latest protocols in cross-infection control.

### **2. Sterilisation and Disinfection of Instruments**

**Sterilisation:** All reusable dental instruments are thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and sterilised using an autoclave after each patient use. This ensures the complete elimination of all pathogens.

**Single-Use Instruments:** We use single-use disposable items such as needles, gloves, and masks whenever possible, ensuring they are disposed of immediately after use.

**Disinfection of Equipment:** Non-critical equipment (e.g., dental chairs, light handles, X-ray equipment) is disinfected between each patient with hospital-grade disinfectants to prevent cross-contamination.

### **3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

All dental professionals will wear appropriate PPE during patient care. This includes gloves, masks, face shields or goggles, and gowns, as necessary.

**Masks:** Masks are worn by both patients and staff to reduce the risk of airborne transmission.

**Gloves:** Disposable gloves are worn during all patient examinations and procedures and are changed between patients.

### **4. Hand Hygiene**

All staff members follow rigorous hand hygiene protocols, including washing hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitisers before and after every patient interaction, after touching surfaces, and after removing gloves.

**Hand Sanitisers:** Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are available throughout the office for staff and patients to use as needed.

## 5. Patient Health Screening

All patients are required to complete a health screening before their appointment. This includes questions about their medical history and any symptoms of infectious diseases to minimise the risk of exposure.

## 6. Surface and Environmental Cleaning

**Cleaning Frequency:** High-touch surfaces (door handles, light switches, countertops, chairs, etc.) are cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day, particularly between patient appointments.

**Treatment Area Cleaning:** Treatment rooms are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between patients, with all surfaces receiving attention to prevent cross-contamination.

## 7. Air Quality Control

**Ventilation:** We maintain proper ventilation in all areas of the practice to ensure good air circulation.

**Air Filtration Systems:** High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters and other air purification systems are used to help reduce the risk of airborne pathogens.

## 8. Waste Disposal and Sharps Management

**Sharps Disposal:** All used needles, and sharp objects are immediately disposed of in designated sharps containers to prevent accidental injuries and contamination.

**General Waste Disposal:** All general waste, including used PPE, is disposed of in accordance with health and safety regulations, ensuring it is handled properly to prevent contamination.

## 9. Staff Training and Compliance

All employees are required to undergo regular training in cross-infection control procedures and are expected to demonstrate compliance with all policies and procedures.

Staff members are expected to report any concerns regarding infection control to management, ensuring a proactive approach to maintaining a safe environment.

## 10. Patient Responsibilities

We kindly request that all patients follow the practice's guidelines, including completing health screenings honestly, to help prevent the spread of infections.

If a patient feels unwell or has symptoms of a contagious illness, they are encouraged to reschedule their appointment to reduce the risk to others.

## 11. Emergency Protocols

In the event of an exposure incident, we have established clear procedures for handling and reporting any incidents of cross-contamination or accidental exposure to infectious agents.

By adhering to this Cross Infection Control Policy, we aim to provide the safest and most hygienic dental care for all our patients while maintaining the highest standards of infection prevention. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our infection control procedures, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for trusting Dev's dental practice with your oral health!