

Dental Personal Protective Equipment and Sterilization Curriculum



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About the Author



Angela McBride has been a dental assistant for over 10 years. She took an unusual path to end up in her career because she started with a bachelor's degree in sport management. When she needed a career change, she chose dentistry because she had always been interested in teeth.

Upon completing an associate degree in specialized technology, Angela worked in a dental office, gaining valuable experience in the clinical and administrative side of the industry. She is a certified dental assistant (CDA) and expanded functions dental assistant (EFDA).

Eventually, Angela put her knowledge to use as an instructor at a CODA-approved dental assisting school. Since then, she has completed an M.A. in adult learning and training and has worked with a high school online education platform to create a four-semester dental assisting course. Angela has always been passionate about passing on her knowledge to those interested in a career in dental assisting.

Lesson Two – Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, participants will learn the basics of maintaining aseptic conditions throughout dental procedures.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how to maintain aseptic conditions to prevent cross-contamination for procedures and services
- Explain the need for surface barriers
- Identify single-use and reusable items
- Discuss pre-cleaning and disinfection

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS	• <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures</i> worksheet • <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures Instructor Resource</i>	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures</i> worksheet (one per participant).	10 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures</i> slide presentation • <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures Notes Page</i>	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures Note Page</i> (one per participant). 2. Prepare the <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures</i> slide presentation for viewing.	30 minutes
REVIEW	• Dental Personal Protective Equipment and Sterilization Scenario Cards • <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures Quiz</i> • <i>Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures Quiz – Answer Key</i>	1. Print the <i>Preventing Cross Contamination During Procedures Quiz</i> (one per participant).	30 to 60 minutes

Lesson Two – Preventing Cross-Contamination During Dental Procedures

LEARN: How to Prevent Cross-Contamination

30 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will receive a thorough introduction to methods used to prevent cross-contamination during dental procedures.

Materials:

- *Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures* slide presentation
- *Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures* Notes Page

Facilitation Steps:

Share the following information as you show the slide presentation. Give participants the *Preventing Cross-Contamination Between Procedures* Notes Page so they may write down information that is important for them to remember.

Slide 1: Introduction slide

Slide 2: Goals and Objectives

No pre-requisite is required for this lesson.

Slide 3: Environmental Infection Control

According to the CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Healthcare Settings—2003, a dental operatory can be divided into two categories:

- Clinical contact surfaces
- Housekeeping surfaces

Housekeeping surfaces include:

- Sink
- Floors
- Walls

These surfaces have a lower risk of transmitting infectious disease, so cleaning isn't as demanding as it is for clinical contact surfaces and patient instruments.

When you're preparing to clean and disinfect a dental operatory, you must consider the following:

- Extent of direct patient contact
- How much hand contact
- How much aerosol or spray contamination
- Other sources of contaminants, like water

Slide 4: Clinical Contact Surfaces

Clinical contact surfaces are contaminated because they get exposed to spray or spatter created during the dental procedure or by a dirty, gloved hand. Clinical contact surfaces are classified in three ways:

- Touch
- Transfer
- Splash, spatter, and droplet

Touch and transfer surfaces require barrier protection or must be cleaned and disinfected between patients. Splash, spatter, and droplet surfaces must be cleaned at least once daily.

Touch surfaces become contaminated when someone touches them directly. Touch surfaces include:

- Chair switches
- Dental unit controls
- Light handles
- Computers or tablets
- Pens

Lesson Two – Preventing Cross-Contamination During Dental Procedures

REVIEW: Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures

30-60 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will apply the knowledge learned in the lecture. They will problem-solve a series of scenarios by role-play.

Materials:

- Dental Personal Protective Equipment and Sterilization Scenario Cards
- *Preventing Cross-Contamination During Dental Procedures Quiz*
- *Preventing Cross-Contamination During Dental Procedures – Answer Key*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Using their notes, have participants review how to prevent cross-contamination.
2. Have participants get in five group and give each group a set of Dental Personal Protective Equipment and Sterilization Scenario Cards.
3. Assign the scenarios about preventing cross-contamination during procedures.
4. Have each small group read through the scenario. They should choose one person from the group to be the dental assistant and one to be the patient.
5. Each group should act out the scenario for the entire class. After each role-play, a group discussion can be facilitated to answer the questions regarding that scenario.
6. When participants are finished with the scenario role-plays, instruct them to take a few minutes to complete the quiz.
7. Have participants self-check their answers as you share from the answer key.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Preventing Cross-Contamination During Procedures Quiz

Select the best answer to the following multiple-choice questions:

1. Housekeeping surfaces include which of the following?
 - a. The dental chair
 - b. Countertops and walls
 - c. Sinks, walls, and floors
 - d. All the above
2. A _____ surface requires surface barriers or pre-cleaning and disinfecting between patients.
 - a. Touch
 - b. Transfer
 - c. Splash, spatter, and droplet
 - d. A and B only
3. Pre-cleaning must be done before disinfection because _____.
 - a. Pre-cleaning works best on smooth surfaces
 - b. You don't have to wear PPE for pre-cleaning, but you do for disinfectant
 - c. Disinfectant is less effective in the presence of debris
 - d. There is a risk when exposed to disinfecting chemicals
4. Disinfecting agents kill _____.
 - a. All forms of microorganisms
 - b. All forms of microorganisms except spores
 - c. All forms of microorganisms except viruses
 - d. All forms of microorganisms except bacteria
5. The high-volume evacuator _____.
 - a. Stops saliva and spatter from exiting the patient's mouth
 - b. Stops blood from spreading on a countertop
 - c. Stops chemicals from being too strong
 - d. None of the above