	Title: Position Statement 4: Infection Control	
	Date Reviewed: September 2014	Version PS4.14.0
	Approved by: Executive Council	Next Review: September 2015

## Infection Control

### Opening Statement

ADOHTA believes an effective infection control strategy, based on preventing the transmission of infection is fundamental to quality health care. Infection Control is a method of minimizing potential hazards within the health care setting and is a joint responsibility between staff and employer.

### Further explanation

ADOHTA believes the primary objective of Infection Control is ensuring the safety of patients and staff, and the prevention of cross infection in the dental/health setting and adopts in principle the Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases endorsed by the NHMRC and ANCA, "Infection Control in the Health Care Setting" as a baseline for the ADOHTA Infection Control Policy.


The ADOHTA recommends that its members adopt the guidelines for the processing of equipment and cleaning of the surgery environment as endorsed by the Australian/New Zealand Standards with the primary objective of ensuring patient safety and minimizing the risk of transfer of infectious diseases in the dental environment.

ADOHTA supports the principles of standard precautions for the treatment and care of all patients. Standard precautions are the work practices necessary to achieve a basic level of infection control and minimise the risk of transmission of infection in the health care setting and are designed to protect clients and oral health care workers. The ADOHTA believes these precautions would apply to any clinical and / or support area where there is potential for exposure to a source of infection, including blood and body fluids and are applied to the treatment and care of all clients regardless of their known or presumed infectious status.

Standard precautions in the oral health care setting include:

- Appropriate hand washing
- Uniforms / clinic clothing and personal hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment
- Immunisation of oral health care workers
- Sterilization practices
- Safe sharps management and waste disposal
- Environmental cleaning and management

The ADOHTA will continue to review information, literature and practices in Infection Control as a primary issue and encourages its members to participate in regular Infection Control professional development activities to ensure they are fully versed with the latest information

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**References:**

AS/ 2182-1998# Sterilizers/Steam/Bench Tops

AS/NZS 4187-2003 General Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sterilizing Reusable Medical and Surgical Instruments and Equipment and Maintenance of associated environments in Health Care Facilities.

AS/NZS 4815-2001 Office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes - Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sterilizing Reusable Medical and Surgical Instruments and Equipment and Maintenance of the associated environment.

- Information on the Australian/New Zealand Standards 2182-1998#, 4187-2003 and 4815-2006\* available at <http://www.standards.com.au>.
- Australian/New Zealand Standards AS/NZS 1337: 1992, updated 1997 Protective Eyewear, 4381-2002 Masks and other similar standards
- The Communicable Diseases Network of Australia & New Zealand revised edition of the NHRMC Infection Control in the Health Care Setting
- “Infection Control Guidelines for the prevention and transmission of infectious diseases in the health care setting” Published via the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing available on the internet at <http://www.icg.health.gov.au/guidelines>
- National Health and Medical research Council reports and Guidelines (NHMRC)
- Infection Control Guidelines for the prevention of transmission of infectious diseases in the health care setting January 2004
- The Australian Immunisation Handbook
- Immunisation Guidelines for health care workers in South Australia <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/prhs/immunisation-index.htm>
- The Dental Practice Act in each state and territory
- Guidelines for the use of Controlled Substances Act – Standing Drug Orders
- Public and Environmental Health Acts
- Therapeutic Goods Administration TGA
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Acts in each state and territory.
- The following websites provide excellent information:-  
<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au//pehs/You've-got-what/you've-got-what-index.htm>  
<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au//pehs/communicable-diseases-index.htm>