

	Title: Position Statement 4: Infection Control	
	Date Reviewed: September 2016	Version PS4.16.0
	Approved by: Executive Council	Next Review: September 2018

## 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 and Control of Infection in Healthcare' endorsed by the NHMRC 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

The ADOHTA recommends that its members are familiar with the Infection Control requirements stated by the Dental Board of Australia. As practitioners' applying for registration or renewal are

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required to declare awareness of their infection status for blood-borne viruses and that they will comply with the requirement of 'Guidelines on Infection Control', Dental Board of Australia, 2010.

#### Resources:

- Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2010). NHMRC.  
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/book/html-australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare-2010>
- Dental Guidelines on Infection Control. Dental Board of Australia, 2010  
<http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Policies-Codes-Guidelines.aspx>
- Information on the Australian/New Zealand Standards available at Standards Australia.  
<http://www.standards.org.au>
  - AS/NZS 4187-2014 Reprocessing of reusable medical devices in health service organisations.
  - AS/NZS 4815-2006 Office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes - Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing reusable medical and surgical
  - AS/NZS 1337: 2010 Protective Eyewear
- Guidelines for Infection Control, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Australia Dental Association.2015
- The Australian Immunisation Handbook, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Australian Government Department of Health. 2013  
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home>
- Australian Therapeutic Good Register (ATGR)  
<http://www.tga.gov.au/docs/html/artg.htm>
- Public Health and/or Environmental Health Acts in each state and territory
- Environmental Protection Authority of each state and territory
- Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Acts in each state and territory.
- The following website provides interesting information: -  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/youvegotwhat](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/youvegotwhat)