

CECDO PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CROSS INFECTION CONTROL IN DENTISTRY

Introduction

In December 2006, a questionnaire consisting of five questions on cross infection control was sent to all members of the CECDO. The answers to the questions were discussed during a workshop, held in Jerusalem in May 2007. The conclusions from the workshop were:

- There is a need for common European recommendations on basic aspects of cross infection control in dentistry.
- Such recommendations do not appear to exist in a number of areas at present.
- The questionnaire and the workshops have identified the variability of approach within Europe on some basic aspects of cross infection control.
- There is a need for a full survey of all existing European regulations, guidelines and recommendations on cross infection control before the CECDO can make any firm recommendations on the topic.
- Members of the CECDO from countries that have not responded to this survey should be encouraged to do so and this report updated accordingly as, when and if they do.

Provisional Recommendations

Prior to a full survey, the following provisional recommendations that arose from the Jerusalem workshop can be discussed within the CECDO. They are as follows:

1. Every country in Europe should have infection control policies based on the best available scientific knowledge.
2. All European countries should have common, basic recommendations on all aspects of cross infection control.
3. These recommendations should be regularly updated.
4. The recommendation should stress basic hygiene such as proper hand washing.
5. They should also include the health protection of health care workers and vaccination should be provided for employees free of charge.
6. The public should be educated in the need for proper cross infection control in all areas of health care, including oral health care.
7. The “Health Authorities” at a local level, should ensure that the recommendations are followed regularly and inspect all clinics/practices/dental offices.
8. Members of the public should be trained as “inspectors” and accompany “professional” inspectors during their visits to clinics and other sites.
9. Cross infection control should be considered as one aspect of risk management and taught as such during dental education and training.
10. During the education of all dental clinicians, more emphasis should be placed on many aspects of cross infection control.
11. Cross infection procedures are more difficult to perform if a dentist or other dental clinician works without a chair-side assistant (dental nurse).