

INFECTION AND HAZARD CONTROL POLICIES

Hazard Communication:

Chemical Safety (OSHA: Hazard Communication Standard – HAZCOM) (NYS: Right – To – Know)

Introduction

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 provides job safety and health protection for workers by promoting safe and healthful working conditions.

Employers in all non-manufacturing businesses, including dentistry, are required to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen and Hazard Communication Standards to ensure that employers, employees, students know about safety and chemicals in the workplace and how to protect themselves from occupational injuries and diseases. Compliance with federal OSHA standards is not optional.

Three Steps for the Hazard Communication Program

1. Hazard Assessment

Hazard Assessment involves listing of all chemicals used in the Dental Laboratory Technology Department and identifying the ingredients, hazards, and emergency procedures associated with each one. A Chemical Inventory list (located in each MSDS binder) has been developed for all hazardous chemicals used. The list also contains the MSDS page number for each chemical to assist employees in quickly locating the appropriate MSDS in case of an emergency. The MSDSs are available to all employees in the Dental Laboratory Department. Since exposures to chemicals may have an immediate, delayed or long-term health effect, OSHA requires all chemical records should be kept for a period of 30 years.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Material Safety Data Sheets provide recommended information for safe use, handling, appropriate PPE needed and storage for each chemical used in the Dental Laboratory Department. It also describes the emergency and first aid procedures for a toxic product. One MSDS is required for each chemical agent in the inventory. Each MSDS is organized in sections to permit easy retrieval of necessary information.

2. Hazard Abatement

Hazard Abatement involves the communication and understanding of hazards through training, container labeling, and signs.

Training

Employees and students receive training specifically for the hazardous chemicals they will use, prior to use and as necessary to ensure safe use. Employees are also informed about the location of the chemical inventory and MSDSs (and how to read and interpret this document).

Product Labeling

Labeling of the original container of hazardous chemicals is the responsibility of the manufacturer. It is primary information source for the proper use of a chemical. Labels must contain the following information: Active ingredients, directions for use, precautionary information, hazard warnings (words, pictures, or symbols), EPA registration number, disposal instructions expiration date, manufacturer's name and address.

If a product is transferred to a secondary container for use the secondary (end-use) container must be labeled. The Dental Laboratory Department has selected the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) format for uniform identification. The secondary label must identify the chemical name and appropriate hazard warning. Required label information may be obtained from the product's MSDS.

3. Hazard Containment

Infection /Exposure Control:

Hazard Containment involves establishing an emergency procedure for exposure incidents. Information describing how to deal with emergencies is included in each chemical **MSDS**.

- Spill Management - Immediate response and quick clean-up of spills of toxic and/or hazardous materials are required to reduce potential situations which may pose a danger to both health and environment. In the event of a spill refer to MSDS for proper clean-up recommendations.
- Eye Wash Stations are located in the dental laboratory. All faculty, staff and students are informed about the location of the eyewash stations and are trained on how to use this device.
- Protective eyewear and gloves must be worn when handling hazardous chemicals.
- First – Aid Kits are located in the dental laboratory.

Emergency Medical Protocol:

- Treat the injury – most require immediate flushing of the area for 10-15 minutes (check the specific MSDS).
- Report incident
- Patient related items received from outside doctors/clinics may be unavoidably exposed to pathogenic organisms through contact with saliva. Dried blood and saliva presents a risk for cross contamination from patient to dental laboratory technician. Standard Precautions must be employed during laboratory procedures. Impressions must be thoroughly rinsed to remove saliva, blood and debris.

Care of Completed Impression

1. Apply standard precautions; wear protective gloves, eyewear and mask.
2. Prepare an accepted disinfectant: Sodium Hypochlorite 1:10. Does not cause distortion of an alginate impression when used for 10-15 minutes.
3. Rinse the impression carefully under cool running water to remove saliva, blood and bacteria (avoid splashing contaminated saliva or blood).
4. Spray impression with disinfectant.
5. Let sit for 10-15 minutes.
6. Rinse impression well, shake off excess water and pour up immediately.

Any items received from outside doctor/clinic (baseplates, trial dentures, dentures, etc.) are to be disinfected with a solution of sodium hypochlorite 1:10 dilution for a minimum of 10 minutes.