

COMPLIANCE WITH OSHA RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS POLICY

Dental assisting students providing care to patients in the extended clinical lab are at increased risk of exposure to various blood borne pathogens and is therefore considered Category I personnel.

Students will be oriented by the H. Council Trenholm State Technical College dental assisting faculty to the policies and procedures of the H. Council Trenholm Dental Clinic prior to their first patient care assignment. All students must familiarize themselves and follow those policies and procedures for clinical labs that pertain to infection control and compliance with OSHA regulations related to blood borne pathogens. Any incident will be recorded in writing by the clinical lab instructor and signed by both the instructor and the student. The report will be filed in the student's permanent record and a copy submitted by the instructor as soon as possible to the Division Chairperson and OSHA Compliance Officer of H. Council State Technical College. **ANY INCIDENT INVOLVING FAILURE TO FOLLOW PROCEDURE AIMED AT CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM.**

The following personal hygiene and/or work practices in the extended clinical lab will be observed at all times. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE POLICIES MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM.**

Universal precautions as recommended or defined by the Centers for Disease Control and/or Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) must be observed in all circumstances in order to prevent contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials.

Specimens of blood or other potentially infectious material should be kept covered at all times. Students, faculty, and staff should wear protective gloves when handling infectious material. Infectious material should be disposed of in biohazard refuse.

Any equipment that should become contaminated with blood or other infectious materials should be reported to the clinical supervising dentist and sterilization and/or a higher-level disinfectant will be used to clean the contaminated equipment.

All procedures involving blood or other potentially infectious materials should be performed in such a manner as to minimize splashing, spraying, and aerosolization of these substances.

Where there is potential for exposure to blood and/or other potentially infectious materials, students will be required to use appropriate personal protective equipment. This appropriate equipment will not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to pass through to reach work/street clothes, undergarments, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes under normal conditions of use and for the duration of time the equipment is to be used. The equipment may include but is not limited to, gloves, gowns, eye protectors, masks or shields, etc. If wearing a shield, face masks must also be worn to protect from aerosols.

The type and characteristics of the protective clothing will depend upon the task and degree of exposure anticipated.

Masks in combination with eye protection devices, such as goggles or glasses with solid side shields, or chin length faces shields should be worn whenever splashes, sprays, splatters or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and eye, nose, or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated.

Contaminated work surfaces should be decontaminated with a hospital level disinfectant. The student/faculty/staff must protect him/herself by wearing nitrile gloves preventing cross-contamination.

Broken glassware should not be picked up directly with hands but should be cleaned up using mechanical means such as a brush, dust pan, tongs, or forceps.

Regulated waste materials should be handled and disposed of in regulated waste containers found throughout the clinic and lab. All containers for regulated waste are closable, puncture resistant, leak proof on sides and bottom and labeled or color coded.

Laundry should be managed according to procedures covered in DAT 100 - Introduction to Dental Assisting. Infection Control Unit.

Students should handle, decontaminate, and/or dispose of contaminated personal protective equipment according to procedures taught in DAT 100 - Introduction to Dental Assisting.

Any uniform or other garments that become contaminated by blood or other potentially infectious materials should be removed immediately or as soon as feasible and placed in a plastic bag taken home by students and cleaned according to procedures taught in DAT 100 - Introduction to Dental Assisting - Infection Control Unit.

Gloves should be worn when it can be reasonably anticipated that the student may have hand contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, and/or non-intact skin; and when handling/touching contaminated items or surfaces. Gloves must be changed after contact with each patient. Any glove that becomes torn should be replaced immediately or as soon as is feasible. Gloves should be disposed of in the regulated waste receptacles.

Students should wash their hands immediately or as soon as possible after removal of gloves or other personal protective equipment and after hand contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Students should wash hands and any other skin with ADA approved hand cleansing agents, or flush mucous membranes with water, immediately or as soon as feasible following contact of such body areas with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Students must wash his/her hands at the beginning and end of each clinic day as well as between all patients. Students are not allowed to have false nails of any kind and natural nails should be short and well manicured with clear nail polish only.

All personal protective equipment should be removed immediately upon ceasing to provide care to the patient, or as soon as possible if contaminated, and placed in an appropriately designated area or container for storage, washing, decontamination or disposal.

The handling and disposal of contaminated sharps should be according to procedures taught in DAT 100 - Introduction to Dental Assisting- Unit Infection Control. No contaminated needles are to be bent, broken, sheared or removed following use. Recapping can only be done when using a recapping device. (Although students are taught one handed recap technique students are to use recapping devices available in the clinic.)

Students are prohibited from eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm and handling contact lenses (personal) in immediate patient care areas or other areas where there is a potential for blood or potentially infectious material exposure.

Contaminated laundry should be handled as little as possible with a minimum of agitation. Contaminated laundry should be bagged or containerized at the location where it was used and should not be sorted or rinsed in the location of use. Contaminated laundry should be placed and transported in bags or containers. Whenever contaminated laundry is wet and presents a reasonable likelihood of soak-through or leakage from the bag or container, the laundry should be placed and transported in bags or containers which prevent soak through and/or leakage of fluids to the exterior.

An item which contains blood or other potentially infectious material or is contaminated by blood or potentially infectious material is referred to as biohazards. Students should recognize the biohazard symbols in a contrasting color. They should recognize that red bags or red containers may be substituted for labels. Students should handle any material labeled as biohazard according to procedures taught in DAT 100 - Introduction to Dental Assisting Unit - Infection Control.

Students should treat all blood and body fluids as if known to be infectious for blood borne pathogens. All laboratory specimens of body substances are considered to be potentially infectious and should be handled according to procedures taught in DAT 100 - Introduction to Dental Assisting Unit - Infection Control. Students involved in any potentially harmful incident during class, campus lab, or clinical labs, must notify the instructor prior to the end of the class or lab and an incident report must be written according to the college policy. Any expense for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by the student during clinical labs will be the responsibility of the student.