

## CED Resolution

# INFECTION CONTROL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN DENTISTRY

November 2014

## INTRODUCTION

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents over 340,000 dental practitioners across Europe through 32 national dental associations and chambers in 30 European countries. Established in 1961 to advise the European Commission on matters relating to the dental profession, the CED key objectives are to promote high standards of oral healthcare and dentistry and effective patient-safety centred professional practice.

## CED STATEMENTS

1. All dental treatment procedures should be provided so as to minimise the risk of healthcare-associated infections.
2. Dentists, having the overall responsibility over the dental team, have the obligation to protect their patients, as well as the members of the dental team from the risk of healthcare-associated infections.
3. Dentists and dental team members should update and improve their knowledge on issues related to infection control during dental treatment and improve this knowledge in an evidence-based context, as part of continuous professional development.
4. European dentists encourage national dental associations and chambers to develop practical guidance documents, in cooperation with Member States and Health Authorities, concerning infection control in dental practice and make them available in printed and electronic form.
5. European dentists call on Member States and health competent authorities to collaborate with national dental associations and chambers and to inform dentists on national policies aimed at prevention and control of infections associated with the provision of oral healthcare.
6. Dental practices should follow specific protocols for management of contaminated medical devices. In connection to this, we support the development of unambiguous rules on reprocessing of single-use devices in the framework of the future EU Regulation on medical devices.
7. Dental practices should follow specific guidance on post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for the care of a dental team member injured by a non-sterile dental tool.
8. The equipment of dental practices related to infection control and decontamination, cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation of medical devices should be of high quality and in accordance with European legislation on medical devices (for example bear the CE mark).
9. Dental practices are reminded of the importance of compliance with relevant guidance related to management of infectious and hazardous waste, as laid down by existing national laws, administrative acts and recommendations of dental chambers and associations.
10. Universities, schools and other educational institutions providing education to dentists and other dental team members are encouraged to develop and offer courses focusing on infection control and prevention as well as on environmentally-responsible management of waste generated by dental practices.

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**Unanimously adopted by the CED General Meeting on 21 November 2014**