

From: Rose Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2015 12:54 p.m.
To: Consultations
Subject: In response to the Draft Infection Prevention and Control Practice Standard

Dear Marie

Thank-you for the opportunity to give feed back on the proposed Infection Prevention and Control Practice Standard. My comments on the following questions are as follows:

Q1. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed Infection Prevention and Control Practice Standard? If you disagree, please detail why.

Q3. Do you have any further comments on the proposed Infection Prevention and Control Practice

It is pertaining to the ethical principles that practitioners must adhere to at all times that I wish to comment here.

- **put patient interests' first**
- **ensure safe practice**
- **provide good care**
- maintain public trust and confidence
- communicate effectively

The aspect of legal safe practice bequeaths the need for the Dental Council to have some responsibility in ensuring that **all dental hygienists engaging in operative and periodontal clinical work be required to have infection control support. To meet the proposed changes to protocol and to practice safely, without compromise, this is of absolutely paramount importance so as to oppose risk of harm to the patient.** Hygienists practise largely in the area of periodontics where bodily fluids, namely blood contaminates, are always an issue. **Infection control guidelines need to be achievable and practical for the sole operator or correct parameters need be put in place, to protect the public, being that of a sterilisation nurse/assistant.** Both cleaning and disinfection of the operative area in between patients, prevention of cross contamination of clinical items/working area whilst treating patients and sterilisation of both critical (**if periodontal instruments are to be listed as critical items**) and non critical items should not be the duty of the clinician who has the role of ensuring ethical principals are adhered to at all times. Any other practice is contradictory and in conflict with this.

It is obviously also the responsibility of the individual Dental practice as to how they would implement changes to infection prevention/control practice standard - so as to comply with ethical principals and profitable practice. **But direction should come from the Dental Council as this is a safety issue.**

Thank you for considering the points I have raised.

Best regards

Rose Davies
Dental Hygienist