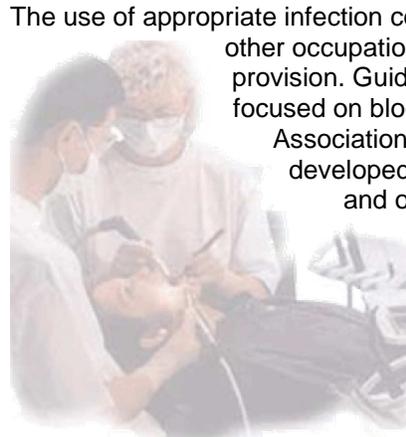


### Standard Precautions (9/03)

Infection control: Its evolution to the current standard precautions. Molinari JA. J Am Dent Assoc 2003;134:569-574.



The use of appropriate infection control precautions to protect against transmission of bloodborne and other occupational microbial pathogens has become a routine component of healthcare provision. Guidelines designed to protect dental professionals and their patients have focused on bloodborne pathogens since the first published American Dental Association (ADA) recommendations in the 1970s. Subsequent statements developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the ADA and other organizations during the past 30 years also have addressed prevention of other infections, transmitted by either direct or indirect contact with a variety of potentially infectious body fluids. The success of long-standing universal precautions (UP) against bloodborne infection has been augmented with the incorporation of body substance isolation (BSI) practices into the infection control protocol designated "standard precautions." Combination of the major tenets of UP with the BSI systems routinely employed in acute care facilities affords all health-care professionals the means of preventing a

spectrum of bloodborne, respiratory, contact and other potential exposures during provision of patient care.

**DIS Comment: Standard Precautions is the primary strategy for successful infection control for all patients and clinical situations. Standard Precautions replaces the term Universal Precautions as they are more inclusive and apply to contact with 1) blood; 2) all body fluids, secretions, and excretions except sweat, regardless of whether they contain blood; 3) non-intact skin; and 4) mucous membranes. Standard Precautions should be used in the care of all patients, regardless of their infection status. For some patients, however, precautions in addition to the Standard Precautions may be advised. These additional precautions, Transmission-Based Precautions (i.e. Airborne, Droplet, or Contact ), are used to interrupt the potential spread of those diseases (e.g., tuberculosis, influenza, and chicken pox) that are transmitted by air, droplets, or indirect or direct contact with contaminated sources. These precautions are used for patients known or suspected to be infected with epidemiologically important pathogens transmitted in these manners.**

### Reference

Garner JS. Guideline for isolation precautions in hospitals. The Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 1996;17:53-80.