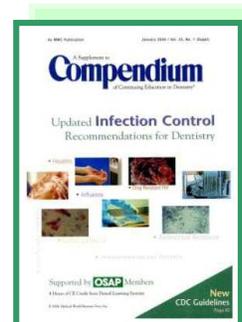


## Updated Infection Control Recommendations for Dentistry (3/04)

Updated Infection Control Recommendations for Dentistry. *Compend Contin Educ Dent* 2004 Jan;25 (1 Suppl):1–55.

In this special supplement to the *Compendium of Continuing Education in Dentistry* various authors provide background information on the recently published CDC *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings, 2003* in six separate articles. The history and evolution of published infection control guidelines, the importance of hand hygiene, and the application of vaccinations as an effective prevention strategy for health-care personnel are discussed. Additional articles review instrument reprocessing and sterilization methods, environmental surface infection control, and frequently asked infection control questions.



**DIS Comment:** The article *Current Concepts in Hand Hygiene* discusses the importance of hand hygiene as the foundation for an effective infection control program. Routine handwashing, hand antiseptics, and surgical hand antiseptics procedures are reviewed. The article concludes with a section emphasizing the importance of education and involvement of the staff in evaluating and selecting new products, as they become available. *An Immunization Program for Dental Practices* emphasizes the need and importance of a written, comprehensive policy for immunizing workers. A thorough review of the hepatitis B vaccine is presented, as well as a discussion of the importance of annual vaccination against influenza. A reprint of the table of recommended immunizations for dental health-care personnel is also included. *Sterilization Update 2003* is a comprehensive review of instrument processing from cleaning to sterilization and storage. A review of new advances in automated cleaning equipment and advances in pre-vacuum and post-vacuum steam sterilizers is also presented. *Environmental Surface Infection Control, 2003* reinforces basic concepts of cleaning and disinfecting as well as addressing the routine use of disposable barrier covers.