



Surveying Infection Prevention in Dental Clinics: What You Need to Know

It's 7:30 am and you just found out the Joint Commission is at the door- how do you react? This presentation will provide you with information and tools you can use to help ensure your next survey is successful. We will review the IC Standards to provide organizations an understanding of what is required by The Joint Commission. We will break down the Infection Prevention hierarchy and provide examples of how it can be used to answer most of your Infection Prevention-related questions, including high risk processes such as instrument reprocessing and sterilization. And finally, we will discuss what surveyors are looking for when they come into your organization. And ultimately...when you get that call at 7:30 am telling you the Joint Commission has arrived...you will feel confident that you have taken the steps to prepare for the survey and you are able to share your organization's commitment to patient safety.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe how the Infection Prevention Standards can help build an Infection Prevention Program
2. Recognize common Joint Commission findings in the dental setting
3. Describe the use of the Infection Prevention hierarchy in developing IP practices for high-infection risk processes in the dental setting.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CE CREDITS: 1

EDUCATIONAL METHOD: Lecture, Recorded, Self-instructional (self-study)

LOCATION: Online

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SPEAKERS:

Sylvia Garcia-Houchins
DIRECTOR, INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL
The Joint Commission

Sylvia Garcia-Houchins is the Director, Infection Prevention and Control and an Ambulatory Care Surveyor. In these roles, she is responsible for the oversight of infection prevention and control for The Joint Commission and surveying the standards in the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual/Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care.

Ms. Garcia-Houchins has over 30 years of experience in infection control, as well as eight years of clinical microbiology experience. Most recently, she served as the Director, Infection Control at University of Chicago Medicine and was also an intermittent consultant for Joint Commission Resources for 10 years. Ms. Garcia-Houchins has provided infection prevention and control consultation, assessment, and education in a variety of health care settings including hospitals, health clinics, ambulatory surgery, and dialysis centers both domestically and internationally. Her specialty areas of interest include disinfection and sterilization, dialysis, infection prevention during renovation and construction, and control of Legionella and other waterborne pathogens. One of the highlights of her career has been training health care professionals in Saudi Arabia as Infection Preventionists. She served as a test writer and reviewer for the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, and has

also authored numerous articles and book chapters related to infection control including a chapter in the APIC Text and the Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization Chapter in The APIC/JCR Infection Prevention and Control Workbook, 4th Edition.

Ms. Garcia-Houchins earned a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, a master's of business administration from the Keller Graduate School of Management, and her nursing degree from Truman College.

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