



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Safety

Policy No.: 4.3
Supersedes:
Revision Date: 11/30/09
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POLICY:

The personnel of the Department of Dentistry shall follow the safety procedures as outlined in the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Safety Manual

PROCEDURE:

1. The Department of Dentistry shall assure that employees have safety and hazard communication upon orientation and shall provide scheduled safety and hazard communication training monthly.
2. The Department shall maintain a file containing Material Safety Data Sheets for hazardous materials readily available to all employees in the Dental Clinic.
3. The Department shall assure that all electrical equipment that is used on patients or that could come in contact with patients is safety checked before being placed in service. All such equipment is safety checked annually and labeled annually records are kept in MERS.
4. Sensitive equipment, the anesthesia (Nitrous oxide) machine and all x-ray units have preventive maintenance as described in Department of Dentistry Policies and Procedures 3.6 and 3.8.

LIST OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS

The following is a list of potential hazards in the dental profession and precautionary steps that Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center Dental Service has taken to reduce exposure/risk to these potential hazards:

POTENTIAL HAZARD

PRECAUTIONARY STEPS

X-RAY RADIATION

Proper lead shielding is used to protect the patient (including a thyroid shield). Lead shielding is used to protect personnel exposing x-rays and other patients in the clinic. X-ray exposure and safety of the x-ray equipment are routinely monitored by the Radiation Safety Department staff

COMPOSITE CURING LIGHTS

Color shielding glasses are worn by the operator and assistant.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/2002

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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GRINDING/DRILLING DEBRIS

Protective lenses are to be worn by all operators when using drills or grinding equipment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Barrier protection is used by personnel in contact with patients (masks, gloves, glasses and gown).

Appropriate sterilization and disinfectant procedures are used with instruments and equipment. All disposable items coming in contact with bodily fluids are disposed of in specially marked "infectious waste" cans. All dental personnel with direct patient contact are encouraged to have the hepatitis vaccination.

NITROUS OXIDE

A nitrous oxide scavenger and special ventilation are used when nitrous oxide is in use to protect the operator and assistant from excessive inhalation.

OXYGEN/METHANE GASES

Smoking is not allowed in the dental clinic, including the room where oxygen is used in conjunction with nitrous oxide. Methane gas outlets are only in the lab area which is separate from the clinic. Open flame is limited to the lab area.

TOXIC CHEMICALS

All hazardous chemicals are labeled and stored (Chloroform, methylmethacrylate, separately from any materials that can be used x-ray film developer/fixer internally. Ammonia and chlorine bleach are not solutions, mercury, cleaning mixed. An automatic dispenser or sealed capsules solutions, sodium hypochlorite are used to reduce mercury exposure. Mercury and (bleach) hydrogen peroxide and alloy remnants are disposed or safely by being ammonia) placed under water in a closed glass container.