American Dental Association
Technical Report No. 1006

Infection Control for Dental Information Systems

ADA. American Dental Association 2002

ADA Technical Report No. 1006 – 2002

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1006 FOR INFECTION CONTROL FOR DENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Council on Dental Practice of the American Dental Association has approved American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1006 for Infection Control for Dental Information Systems. Working Groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) formulate this and other technical reports and specifications for the application of information technology and other electronic technologies to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations. The ADA SCDI has representation from appropriate interests in the United States in the standardization of information technology and other electronic technologies used in dental practice. Approval of ADA Technical Report No. 1006 was confirmed by the ADA SCDI on May 17, 2002.

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1006 FOR INFECTION CONTROL FOR DENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

FOREWORD

(This foreword does not form a part of American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1006 for Infection Control for Dental Information Systems)

In 1992, there was interest in the standardization of clinical information systems related to electronic technology in the dental environment. After evaluating current informatics activities, a Task Group of the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee MD156 (ASC MD156) was created by the ADA to initiate the development of technical reports, guidelines, and standards on electronic technologies used in dental practice. In 1999, the ADA established the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI). The ADA SCDI is currently the group that reviews and approves proposed American National Standards (ANSI approved) and technical reports developed by the standards committee's working groups. The ADA became an ANSI accredited standards organization in 2000.

The scope of the ADA SCDI is:

"To promote patient care and oral health through the application of information technology to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations; to develop standards, specifications, technical reports, and guidelines for: components of a computerized dental clinical workstation; electronic technologies used in dental practice; and interoperability standards for different software and hardware products which provide a seamless information exchange throughout all facets of healthcare."

In September 1994, Raghu Puttaiah and S. Brent Dove created a draft technical report for infection control for dental information systems. The SCDI Working Group 10.1 for Infection Control for Dental Information Systems developed the 1994 draft technical report into ADA Technical Report No. 1006: Infection Control for Dental Information Systems. The SCDI Working Group 10.1 chairman is Gregory Zeller. SCDI Working Group 10.1 completed this report at the request of SCDI Subcommittee 10 on Dental Informatics Architecture and Devices (Scott Trapp, Chairman).

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1006 FOR INFECTION CONTROL FOR DENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

INTRODUCTION

This Technical Report is intended as a working document to assist in developing standards for infection control guidelines for dental informatics devices and equipment.

Dental informatics equipment and devices consist of the computerized clinical information systems used in dentistry. Devices are those items intended for intraoral use and include digital radiographic equipment, intraoral camera and microscope systems, periodontal probing devices, occlusal force analysis systems, pulp testers, apex locators, and intraoral printers. Equipment is used to support these devices and includes foot controls, headsets, keyboards, pointing devices, and computers and other peripheral hardware such as printers, scanners, CD players, and monitors. These devices and equipment are used for the management of patient information and office records.

Hardware may be physically located within the patient treatment area or in the business office. Devices and equipment used in patient treatment areas should be designed or be able to be adapted to allow appropriate infection control protocols which prevent patient cross-contamination as well as the introduction of environmental infectious agents into the operative site.

This report addresses infection control issues related to the devices and equipment used in dental informatics and is based on the existing infection control protocols related to dental patient care. The cornerstone of current dental infection control practice is the concept of standard precautions, a term which has gradually replaced that of universal precautions. As recommended by the ADA and the CDC and as required by OSHA, current practices for standard blood and body fluids precautions, including airborne, droplet, and aerosol considerations, should be applied to dental informatics devices and equipment that have the potential to be contaminated with blood or other body fluids during the course of patient treatment. This includes devices and equipment specifically designed for dental use, such as digital radiography equipment, as well as equipment not specifically intended for dental applications that is used in conjunction with clinical dental treatment, such as a computer.

ADA Technical Report No. 1006 for Infection Control in Dental Information Systems is designed to provide guidance both to manufacturers and to users regarding infection control required for dental information collection systems. This Technical Report is intended to help practice management system vendors and dental office staff in the design and use of information system interfaces in such a way as to improve infection control practices.