

Office Workflow Protocols for Hygiene

Hygiene Exam Frequency: Goal is to Reduce Risk during Re-Care Appointments

Frequency: Reduce and Establish Minimums

Minimum once yearly on healthy six-month re-care patients.

Minimum twice yearly on periodontal maintenance patients or caries maintenance patients that are at higher risk for disease progression.

Hygiene Instrumentation Based on Risk: Goal is to Reduce Aerosols

Consider hand instrumentation as the primary strategy. For two-handed hygiene procedures, use intraoral suctioning devices such as Isolite, Drysheild, Ivory ReLeaf, Purevac, etc.

Hygiene Exam Protocol: Goal is to Reduce Risk while Preserving PPE

Exam Protocol:

For all exams: Gown will be outside the operatory at each hygiene station. Can be disposable. Doctor takes off gown used during restorative procedure at restorative operatory. If an aerosol generating procedure and soiled, it is placed in laundry. If disposable, it is disposed. If not, it is left at restorative operatory and fogged or misted with HOCl.

Doctor puts on gown upon arrival at hygiene operatory, regardless whether entering room or not.

- **If entering room to perform exam:** level 3 mask, gloves, and eye protection required; face shield if there is risk for aerosol. Upon completion, gown is removed, fogged or misted with spray bottle, and re-hung for the next hour. If this is not possible, a new gown is used. Disposable gowns are not fogged or misted- they are disposed.
- **If not entering room (touchless exam):** level 3 mask only. Hygienist uses camera (intra-oral, Go Pro, etc.) to display findings on monitor for evaluation by doctor. If it becomes necessary to enter room, gloves and eye protection added. Upon completion, gown is removed, fogged, or misted with spray bottle, and left for the next hour. If this is not possible, a new gown is used. Disposable gowns are not fogged or misted—they are disposed.

This flow will minimize having to define protocols about appropriate PPE moving between restorative and hygiene operatories. Gowns should stay in/near the operatories to minimize exposure.