



CADAT / CDAA Joint Annual Conference April 25 – 26, 2025



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Course: *Essential Standard Precautions in Dentistry: Ensuring Safety and Infection Control*

Course Description:

In the field of dentistry, maintaining a safe and sterile environment is paramount to protecting both patients and healthcare providers from the risk of infection. The adoption and consistent application of standard precautions are essential to preventing the transmission of infectious agents during dental procedures. These precautions are a set of guidelines designed to safeguard everyone in the dental office—whether it's a routine cleaning, an invasive procedure, or a simple consultation.

Standard precautions include a range of practices such as proper hand hygiene, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), safe handling of instruments, and effective cleaning and disinfection procedures. By following these guidelines, dental professionals can reduce the risk of cross-contamination and ensure that every patient receives the highest standard of care in a safe, controlled environment.

This presentation will provide an overview of the key standard precautions every dental practice should adopt, discuss their importance in maintaining infection control, and highlight best practices to ensure the health and safety of all involved. Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to the field, understanding and applying these precautions is essential to providing high-quality, safe dental care.

Course Objectives:

1. **Define the concept of standard precautions** in dentistry and their role in infection control.
2. **Identify key standard precautions** that should be followed in dental settings, including hand hygiene, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and safe handling of dental instruments.
3. **Recognize the importance of environmental cleaning and disinfection** in maintaining a safe and sterile dental practice.
4. **Discuss strategies for preventing cross-contamination** between patients, dental professionals, and the office environment.



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5. **Evaluate the importance of infection control protocols** in maintaining patient safety and minimizing risks associated with dental procedures.
6. **Apply best practices for infection control** to enhance clinical outcomes and ensure regulatory compliance in the dental office.

These objectives will equip dental professionals with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement effective infection control practices, ultimately improving patient care and safety.

Maryanne Ferree, BS, RDH, PHDHP, CDIPC from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is an educator, author, and speaker. Her career in dental hygiene spans over 40 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in dental hygiene education, maintains a Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner license, and is certified in Dental Infection Control and Prevention. Maryanne serves as Chair of the Infection Control Committee at the University of Pittsburgh, and her articles on infection control appear in RDH Magazine. She has ventured into many facets of dental hygiene, including clinical care, public health, and education. She is currently a clinical faculty member in the Department of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry at her alma mater. She enjoys teaching the next generations of dental students, focusing her clinical teaching on periodontal instrumentation. Maryanne's clinical research involves the study of implant disease and treatment. She is an active member of The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and the Association for Dental Safety (ADS). She is excited to step into the role of KOL and blogger to share her enthusiasm for infection control in the dental setting, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance training, and periodontal disease therapy. She can be reached at maf150@pitt.edu