

Instructional Terminology

DENTAL ASSISTING 51.0600.00



A

Aerosol - a fine spray of particles

Airborne Transmission - a type of disease transmission through contaminated droplets in the air

Alginate - elastic irreversible impression material that is used to take dental impressions

Amalgam - an alloy of mercury with another metal, especially one used for dental fillings

American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) - an international dental organization focused on the art and science of cosmetic dentistry

Anesthesia - used in dentistry to manage pain for dental procedures

Arizona State Dental Practice Act - Statutes affecting Dental Board Licensees consist of Title 32

As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) - the basic radiation concept for safety

Asepsis - the absence of microorganisms

Aseptic technique - utilizing procedures in dentistry that prevent microorganism contamination

Aspirating Syringe - the most commonly used type of syringe in dental procedures

Autoclave - a strong heated container used for chemical reactions and other processes using high pressures and temperatures

B

Behavior Management - techniques used by the dental team to manage dental anxiety and fear from patients

Biofilm - layers of microorganisms that adhere to surfaces

Biological indicators - also known as spore tests, are the most accepted means of monitoring sterilization; see also Monitoring systems

Bisecting technique - Intraoral radiographic procedure wherein film is placed along lingual surface of the resting on palate or floor of mouth; central ray of the x-ray beam is perpendicular to imaginary plane that bisects angle formed by film and long axis of tooth at their contact point

C

CAD/CAM restorative system - systems that allow for metal-free dental restorations and is often fabricated and placed in a single dental visit

Caries - tooth decay

This Instructional Terminology is aligned to both the Program Blueprint for Instruction & Assessment as well as the Instructional Framework. It corresponds with the technical standards adopted January, 2013. Use of content-specific terminology is provided to help identify consistent definitions.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - a federal agency that conducts and supports health promotion, prevention and preparedness activities in the United States, with the goal of improving overall public health

Chain of infection - Certain conditions must be met in order for a microbe or infectious disease to be spread from person to person

Classification of Motions - the dental team's types of motions when performing dental tasks

Cleaning - removal of debris and substances

Composite - resin; tooth-colored fillings

Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 - a federal law that identifies drugs according to five schedules of abuse potential

Coordination of Benefits (COB) - refers to the collaboration between dental insurances to provide respective payments if the individual has more than one dental insurance coverage

Coronal Polishing - a procedure used to remove stain and plaque from the enamel surfaces of the teeth, after the removal of hard deposits such as calculus from the tooth surfaces

Cosmetic Dentistry - a dental specialty focused on dental procedures to enhance the patient's appearance

Cross-contamination - the process by which bacteria or other microorganisms are unintentionally transferred from one substance or object to another, with harmful effect

D

Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) - the nationally recognized certification organization for dental assistants

Dental Chart - a document that records the conditions in the patient's oral cavity using symbols, numbers and colors

Dental ethics - a system of principles governing dental practice; a moral obligation to render the best possible quality of dental service to the patient and to maintain an honest relationship with other members of the profession and society at large

Dental handpiece - a small dental equipment that is used to remove tooth decay and prepare the tooth for restorations

Dental implant - type of dental prosthesis that replaces a missing tooth that is surgically placed in the oral cavity

Dental prosthesis - used to reconstruct defects such as missing teeth or missing parts of teeth

Dental Rotary Instruments - used in a handpiece to cut, trim, smooth, finish, and perform other procedures

Diagnosis - the identification of diseases or dental/medical problems in a patient

Digital radiography - allows the dental team to take radiographs using a computerized system

Digital x-rays - digital X-ray sensors are used instead of traditional photographic film to produce images

Direct Supervision - the dentist is in the office and available for consultation while the dental assistant is performing procedures on a patient

Disinfection - the process of cleaning in which some microorganisms are destroyed, but not all

Drug administration routes - the different ways a drug is administered in the body

Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) - the government organization which enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States

E

Early childhood caries (ECC) - a disease that impacts teeth in children between birth and 6 years of age; see also Nursing Bottle Syndrome

Electromagnetic Energy - a form of energy that is reflected or emitted from objects in the form of electrical and magnetic waves that can travel through space

Endodontics - a specialty in dentistry that is focused on the dental pulp

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - an independent federal agency, created in 1970, that sets and enforces rules and standards that protect the environment and control pollution

Ergonomics in Dentistry - maintaining the body in a neutral position while performing tasks in the dental office

Evacuation system - the air compressors and suction in a dental office

F

Facial landmarks - anatomical landmarks of the face utilized in dentistry

Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI) System - one of the systems of identifying teeth and areas of the oral cavity that is mostly used in Canada and European countries

Film Speed - dental film's sensitivity to radiation

Forensic Dentistry - a specialty in dentistry that is focused on identification of an individual utilizing dental restorations and dental morphology

Four-handed dentistry - a technique in which a dental assistant or dental hygienist works directly with the dentist on the procedures being done in the mouth of a patient; this technique reduces fatigue and improves the effectiveness of dental procedures

Full Mouth Radiographic Series (FMX) - 20 images composed of periapical and bitewing projections

G

G.V Black's Classification of Instruments - structure of defining dental hand instruments devised by G.V Black

General Supervision - the dentist authorized the treatment or procedure on the patient to be performed by the dental assistant and is not required to be physically present in the office during procedure

Gray (GY) - a derived unit of ionizing radiation dose; see also radiation absorbed dose (rad)

H

Hand sanitizing - cleaning hands utilizing hand sanitizing gel or foam

Handwashing - the process of cleaning hands which removes germs

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) - a U.S. law designed to provide privacy standards to protect patients' medical records and other health information provided to health plans, doctors, hospitals and other health care providers

Hippocratic Oath - "Do no harm"; oath taken by medical and dental professionals

I

Implied Consent - occurs when a patient grants implicit consent to procedures based on their actions

Infection Control - prevention or procedures to reduce or eliminate transmission of microorganisms

Informed Consent - permission given by patient to dental professional

to perform procedures with full knowledge of the risks and benefits associated with the procedure

Instrument grasp - a method for holding instruments that is designed to enhance control and sensitivity

Instrument transfer - the efficient exchange of instruments between the operator and the dental assistant

Ionization - process in which atoms change into negative or positive charged ions

Isolation techniques - in dentistry, separation of a tooth or group of teeth from oral tissues and saliva by use of a dental dam, cotton rolls, or other means to improve access, visibility, and control moisture contamination while restorative or operative dental procedures are performed

L

Lead foil - backing is to attenuate the beam and to absorb scattered radiation (backscatter) from striking the film emulsion from the back side of the film (the side away from the tube), and which would then fog the film

Local anesthetics - the temporary loss of sensation or pain in one part of the body produced by a topically applied or injected agent without depressing the level of consciousness

M

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs - a theory of human needs developed by Abraham Maslow which begins with physiological and ends with self-actualization

Maximum Permissible Dose - radiation dose limits

Microbiology - the branch of science that deals with microorganisms

Mode of Transmission - passing of microorganisms through different types of transmission

Moisture Control - different types of techniques to keep the oral cavity free of moisture

Monitoring systems - sterilization procedures should be monitored using biological, mechanical, and chemical indicators

N

Nitrous Oxide - a colorless gas with a sweetish odor, prepared by heating ammonium nitrate; it produces exhilaration or anesthesia when inhaled and is used as an anesthetic and as an aerosol propellant

Non-pathogenic microorganisms - microorganisms that are not harmful and do not cause diseases

Nursing Bottle Syndrome - a disease that impacts teeth in children between birth and 6 years of age; see also early childhood caries

Nutrition - the study of nutrients in food and how the body uses them to obtain health and growth

O

Occlusal technique - an intraoral radiograph or dental image made with the film or image receptor placed on the occlusal surfaces of one of the arches; it shows the relationship of teeth to underlying structures in the alveolar process, such as cysts and abscesses

Occupational Exposure - anticipated hazardous exposure that may result due to employment tasks

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) - an agency of the US government under the Department of Labor with the responsibility of ensuring safety at work and a healthful work environment

Operatory - the dental treatment room

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery - a specialty in dentistry that is focused on oral and facial structures

Oral Embryology - the study of the formation and development of the oral cavity

Oral Evacuation System - the process of removing fluids and debris from the oral cavity utilizing saliva ejectors and high-volume evacuators

Oral Histology - the study of microscopic structures of the oral cavity

Oral Hygiene Instructions (OHI) - educational information used to instruct patients to prevent cavities and maintain healthy teeth and gums; often includes proper methods of brushing and flossing

Oral Pathology - the study of the detection, type, and management of diseases in the oral cavity

Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures (OSAP) - a resource for for infection control and safety information for the dental industry

Orthodontics - a specialty in dentistry that is focused on malocclusion in dental facial structures

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard - as amended pursuant to the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act of 2000, prescribes safeguards to protect workers against the health hazards caused by bloodborne pathogens; (29 CFR 1910.1030)

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) - human body fluids such as saliva that can be soiled with blood

P

Palmer System - one of the systems of identifying teeth and areas of the oral cavity that is mostly used by orthodontists

Panoramic films - a panoramic radiograph is a panoramic scanning dental X-ray of the upper and lower jaw; it shows a two-dimensional view of a half-circle from ear to ear

Paralleling technique - The paralleling technique results in good quality x-rays with a minimum of distortion and is the most reliable

technique for taking periapical x-rays; the film is placed parallel to the long axis of the tooth in question and the central x-ray beam should be directed perpendicular to the long axis of the tooth

Parenteral - through the skin

Pathogenic microorganisms - microorganisms that are harmful and disease-producing

Pediatric Dentistry - a specialty in dentistry that is focused on dentistry for children from birth to adolescence

Periodontal Screening and Recording (PSR) - methods used to evaluate and record periodontal health

Periodontics - a specialty in dentistry that is focused on supporting structures of the teeth

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards which can cause workplace injuries and illness to employees

Pharmacology - a branch of medicine that focuses on the study of drugs

Physician desk reference - a guide to prescription drugs available in the United States

Prescription - a written order and instruction for a specific medicine or treatment made by an authorized medical practitioner

Primary Radiation - the primary beam, useful x-ray that produces dental images

Prosthodontics - a specialty in Dentistry that focuses on dental prostheses

R

Radiation - the emission of energy as electromagnetic waves or as moving subatomic particles, especially high-energy particles which cause ionization

Radiation Absorbed Dose (rad) - unit of measurement that measures the amount of radiation absorbed in a substance; see also Gray (GY)

Radiolucent - images on dental radiographs that are dark

Radiopaque - images on dental radiographs that are white or light

Radioresistant cells - cells that are less sensitive to the effects of radiation

Radiosensitive cells - cells that are more sensitive to the effects of radiation

Relative Biological Effectiveness (rbe) - unit of measurement that is used to compare biological effects of radiation on various tissues

Risk Management - the identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks

Roentgen (R) - a unit of measurement that equals the amount of radiation that ionizes one cubic centimeter of air

Roentgen Equivalent Man (rem) - unit of measurement that measures

the dose at which body tissues are exposed; see also sievert (Sv)

S

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) - a document that lists information relating to occupational safety and health for the use of various substances and products

Sedation - oral sedation dentistry is a medical procedure involving the administration of oral sedative drugs, generally to facilitate a dental procedure and reduce patients fear and anxiety related to the experience

Sievert (Sv) - a derived unit of ionizing radiation dose and is a measure of the health effect of low levels of ionizing radiation on the human body; see also Roentgen Equivalent Man (rem)

Six-handed dentistry - the utilization of high powered microscopes by both the dentist and assistant for improved visibility; often used in dental surgery

Standard precautions - infection control practices and techniques used to prevent transmission of microorganisms

Sterilization - procedure and process of cleaning in which all microorganisms are destroyed

Sterilization Monitoring - tracking and recording sterilization process to ensure proper sterilization of instruments

T

Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) - composed of bone, muscle, and joints of the jaw

Tooth Morphology - study of the forms of teeth

Topical gel - anesthetic applied to the skin or gum for local action which reduces the slight discomfort associated with insertion of a needle

Treatment Plan - an outline of dental services that are needed by a patient

U

Ultrasonic cleaner - a process that uses ultrasound to agitate a fluid; can be used with water alone or with the use of a solvent

Universal precautions - is an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - a US governmental agency that provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues

Universal/National System - one of the systems of identifying teeth and areas of the oral cavity that is mostly used in the United States

Utility gloves - a type of gloves used for cleaning and disinfection

V

Vital signs - measurements which indicate the status of a body including pulse rate, temperature, respiration rate, and blood pressure