



Parish Dental Practice Policy: Legionella Management

Policy Statement:

Parish Dental Practice is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all staff and patients by effectively managing the risk of Legionella bacteria in our water systems. This policy outlines the practices and procedures for monitoring and controlling Legionella to prevent contamination and safeguard public health.

Objective:

To implement a comprehensive Legionella risk management program, adhering to legal and health standards, ensuring regular monitoring and control of water systems within the practice.

Scope:

This policy applies to all water systems within Parish Dental Practice, including dental unit waterlines, sinks, and other water-reliant equipment and facilities.

Detailed Procedures:

1. Risk Assessment:

- Conduct regular and comprehensive risk assessments of all water systems to identify potential Legionella hazards.
- Document and review the assessments periodically or when there are changes in the water system or its use.

2. Water System Management:

- Implement control measures to reduce the risk of Legionella growth, such as temperature control (keeping water either below 20°C or above 50°C), regular flushing of water systems, and avoiding water stagnation.
- Use appropriate water treatment methods, such as filtration and biocides, particularly in dental unit waterlines.

3. Monitoring and Testing:

- Establish a routine monitoring program, including regular inspection, temperature checks, and microbiological testing for Legionella.
- Keep detailed records of monitoring results and any actions taken.

4. Maintenance and Cleaning:

- Ensure regular cleaning and maintenance of all water systems and associated equipment.
- Follow manufacturer guidelines for the maintenance and decontamination of dental equipment.





5. Training and Awareness:

- Provide training for staff on Legionella risks, prevention measures, and detection procedures.
- Foster a culture of awareness regarding water safety and hygiene.

6. Incident Response and Reporting:

- Develop a procedure for responding to any detection of Legionella, including immediate remedial actions and notification of relevant health authorities.
- Document and investigate any incidents to prevent recurrence.

7. Contractor Management:

- Ensure that any external contractors involved in water system maintenance are competent and aware of the practice's Legionella management policies.

8. Policy Review and Updates:

- Regularly review and update the Legionella management policy to reflect new guidelines, changes in the water system, or advancements in water treatment technologies.

Enhanced Responsibility and Compliance:

- **Practice Manager:** Responsible for the overall implementation of the Legionella management policy and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.
- **Designated Safety Officer:** Oversees the monitoring, maintenance, and record-keeping of water systems.
- **All Staff Members:** Required to be familiar with the Legionella policy and adhere to the prescribed safety practices.

This policy is designed to ensure that Parish Dental Practice proactively manages the risk of Legionella, maintaining a safe environment for both staff and patients. Regular risk assessments, staff training, and adherence to maintenance protocols are key to the effective management of Legionella risks.

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