



## **Parish Dental Practice Policy: Single Use Equipment**

### **Policy Statement:**

Parish Dental Practice is committed to the highest standards of patient care and infection control. This policy outlines the proper use and disposal of single-use equipment, ensuring patient safety and compliance with health regulations.

### **Objective:**

To establish clear guidelines for the identification, handling, and disposal of single-use dental equipment, preventing cross-contamination and maintaining optimal hygiene practices.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all dental professionals and staff at Parish Dental Practice, encompassing the management of all single-use instruments and materials.

### **Detailed Procedures:**

#### **1. Identification of Single-Use Items:**

- Clearly identify and list all single-use items, such as needles, syringes, gloves, masks, and certain dental instruments.
- Ensure that all staff members are aware of which items are designated for single use.

#### **2. Proper Usage:**

- Instruct staff on the correct usage of single-use items, emphasizing that they should be used only once and on a single patient.
- Prevent the reuse or reprocessing of single-use items under any circumstances.

#### **3. Storage and Handling:**

- Store single-use items in a manner that prevents contamination prior to use.
- Handle these items with the same care and attention as reusable instruments to maintain sterility until the point of use.

#### **4. Disposal Procedures:**

- Dispose of single-use items immediately after use in appropriately labeled and color-coded waste containers.
- Segregate waste as per local and national regulations, particularly for sharps and other hazardous materials.





**5. Training and Awareness:**

- Provide comprehensive training for staff on the importance of single-use equipment policies, focusing on infection control and patient safety.
- Regularly update and refresh this training to ensure ongoing compliance and awareness.

**6. Purchasing and Inventory Management:**

- Manage the procurement of single-use items to ensure a consistent supply, avoiding shortages that might compromise safety standards.
- Maintain an inventory system that tracks the usage and replenishment of single-use items.

**7. Environmental Considerations:**

- Where possible, choose single-use items that have minimal environmental impact or are made from sustainable materials.
- Encourage environmentally responsible disposal practices.

**8. Policy Review and Updates:**

- Regularly review and update the single-use equipment policy to reflect changes in clinical practices, technological advancements, and regulatory requirements.

**9. Record Keeping and Documentation:**

- Maintain records of single-use items' usage and disposal as part of the practice's infection control documentation.

**10. Compliance and Monitoring:**

- Monitor the implementation of this policy through regular audits and staff feedback.
- Address non-compliance issues promptly to ensure adherence to the policy.

**Enhanced Responsibility and Compliance:**

- **Practice Manager:** Responsible for overseeing the implementation of the single-use equipment policy and ensuring compliance with health and safety standards.
- **Infection Control Officer:** Monitors the proper usage and disposal of single-use items, providing guidance and training to staff.
- **All Staff Members:** Required to adhere to the policy, using single-use items appropriately and disposing of them correctly.





**PARISH DENTAL**

Dental & Cosmetic Studio

0113 263 8509 

hello@parishdental.co.uk 

www.parishdental.co.uk 

7-9 Branch Road, Armley, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS12 3AQ

This policy ensures that Parish Dental Practice upholds strict infection control standards, safeguarding patient health while complying with relevant healthcare regulations. Regular training and audits are key to maintaining high standards in the management of single-use dental equipment.

**Policy written by Dr Pavan Amar Singh Bhogal GDC: 273704**

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**M & B Practices Limited trading as Parish Dental**

Registered in England and Wales Company No. 07771387

Registered Office: Suite 3 Castlegate House, Castlegate, York, England, YO1 9RP

