

## Parish Dental Practice Policy: Rubber Dam Use

### Policy Statement:

Parish Dental Practice is committed to providing the highest standard of dental care, which includes the safe and effective use of rubber dams during dental procedures. This policy outlines the guidelines for the use of rubber dams to ensure patient safety and improve treatment outcomes.

### Objective:

To standardize the use of rubber dams in applicable dental procedures, ensuring patient comfort and safety, and enhancing the quality of dental care.

### Scope:

This policy applies to all dental professionals at Parish Dental Practice who perform or assist in dental procedures that require the use of a rubber dam.

### Detailed Procedures:

#### 1. Indications for Use:

- Clearly define the dental procedures where a rubber dam is required, such as root canal treatments, restorative procedures, and others where isolation of the treatment area is necessary.

#### 2. Training and Competency:

- Ensure all dental professionals are adequately trained in the correct and safe application of rubber dams.
- Regularly update training to include new techniques or products.

#### 3. Patient Assessment and Consent:

- Conduct a pre-procedure assessment to determine any contraindications for rubber dam use, such as latex allergies or respiratory issues.
- Obtain informed consent from patients after explaining the purpose and benefits of using a rubber dam.

#### 4. Application Procedure:

- Follow a standardized procedure for the application of rubber dams, ensuring proper placement and securement to avoid discomfort or injury to the patient.
- Use appropriate clamps, frames, and other accessories as needed.

#### 5. Hygiene and Infection Control:





- Adhere to strict hygiene and infection control practices when handling and applying rubber dams.
- Use disposable rubber dams or properly sterilize reusable components between patients.

## 6. Patient Comfort and Safety:

- Monitor patient comfort and safety throughout the procedure, making adjustments as necessary.
- Provide clear instructions to the patient on signaling any discomfort or distress during the procedure.

## 7. Emergency Procedures:

- Establish procedures for promptly addressing any complications or emergencies related to rubber dam use, such as accidental inhalation or swallowing of components.

## 8. Disposal and Environmental Considerations:

- Dispose of single-use rubber dams and other components in accordance with environmental and waste management guidelines.
- Consider using eco-friendly alternatives if available.

## 9. Record Keeping:

- Document the use of rubber dams in patient records, including any relevant observations or issues during the procedure.

## 10. Policy Review and Updates:

- Regularly review and update the rubber dam policy to reflect current best practices, new research findings, and feedback from dental professionals and patients.

## Enhanced Responsibility and Compliance:

- **Practice Manager:** Ensures the implementation and regular review of the rubber dam policy.
- **Dental Professionals:** Responsible for adhering to the policy, maintaining skills in rubber dam application, and ensuring patient safety.
- **Support Staff:** Assist in the preparation and maintenance of rubber dam equipment and materials.

This policy ensures that Parish Dental Practice utilizes rubber dams effectively and safely, enhancing the quality of dental care while prioritizing patient safety and comfort. Regular training, adherence to standardized procedures, and patient communication are key for the successful implementation of this policy.

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Updated Yearly

