

DAI Policy 500.40.16 Dental Radiation Procedure and Safety
Attachment B – Safe Radiographic Practices
University of Washington School of Dentistry Health & Safety
Effective Date: 12/05/12

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Infection Control for Radiography

The following are guidelines to be followed in the taking and processing of dental radiographs. The guidelines are slight modifications of those recommended by the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology(Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol 1992;73:248-9).

Operatory and Equipment Management

- Items such as ear rods, chin rests, and head positioners that cannot be removed for cleaning and sterilization shall be disinfected with Biocide.
- Materials and instruments used during the appointment shall be kept on work surfaces that are covered, or disinfected with Biocide.
- Disinfect faucets, handles, and soap dispensers that are not covered, or may be touched by hands during the appointment.
- Dispose of all contaminated disposables as infectious waste by sealing them in a plastic bag and placing the bag in the Hazardous waste container.
- Cover the exposure switch, cone and X-ray head with a clean plastic cover during use.
- Cover chair adjustment controls.
- Obtain film packets and other radiographic materials and devices before donning gloves.

Clinical Protocol

- Universal precautions are to be exercised during the taking and processing of radiographs.
- Wash hands before and after wearing gloves which are to be worn during the taking and processing of radiographs.
- Keep clean film packets in a clean container and place the contaminated exposed packets on a work surface.
- Touch only covered surfaces during the radiographic procedure.



Film Processing: Use of a Daylight Loader

- Place a clean paper towel on the bottom of the daylight loader.
- Place the container of contaminated packets into the loader along with a paper cup to hold wrapping debris.
- Close the loader lid and don a pair of gloves.
- Open packets one at a time. Grasp only the edges of the film to slide the film out halfway from the wrapping and insert the film into the film slot using the wrapping as a protective handle. Discard wrappings into the empty paper cup.
- When finished, remove all debris from the loader. Sort through the wrappings and place all lead foils in a special container near the developer. The other debris can be discarded in the general waste containers.



Preparation of Loader



Partial Film Removal



Insertion into Slot



Use of a Darkroom

- Put on a pair of gloves and place two paper towels on the work surface.
- Open packets one at a time. Grasp only the edges of the film to remove them from the packets and drop them onto one of the clean paper towels.
- Discard wrappings onto the other paper towel.
- When all films are unwrapped, remove the lead foils from the wrappings and place them in a special container. The other debris can be discarded in the general waste containers.
- Remove your gloves and wash your hands.

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- Insert the films into the developer slots.
- Re-wash your hands when you are finished.