

INFECTION CONTROL

Alison Dees

Marketing & Product Training Manager

Oaktree Products, Inc.

St. Louis, MO

Objectives

- **What is Infection Control?**
- **Why Should You Care?**
- **What Should You Do?**

WHAT IS INFECTION CONTROL?

**‘....conscious management of
clinical environment for purposes
of minimizing or eliminating the
potential spread of disease’**

Bankaitis & Kemp, 2003, 2004

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- **How Immune system works**
- **HIV & Immune System**
- **Lessons learned from HIV**
- **Application to hearing aid clinic**

Why Should You Care? cont.

- Federal mandate
- Exposure to bodily fluids
- Contact with multiple people & objects
 - MODE VS ROUTE OF MICROBIAL TRANSMISSION

MODE OF TRANSMISSION

- CONTACT
 - DIRECT
 - INDIRECT
 - DROPLET
- VEHICLE
- AIRBORNE
- VECTORBORNE

ROUTE OF TRANSMISSION

- PORTAL OF ENTRY INTO BODY
 - EYES
 - NOSE
 - MOUTH
 - CHAPPED SKIN
 - EAR CANAL

Why Should You Care? cont.

- Federal mandate
- Exposure to bodily fluids
- Contact with multiple people & objects
 - MODE VS ROUTE OF MICROBIAL TRANSMISSION
- Opportunistic infections

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- Assess scope of service
- Select product
- Arrange for written plan
- Practice what you preach

- Assess Scope of Service

- Profession-specific procedures designed to reduce the likelihood of cross-contamination
 - Take list of services you provide
 - Create written procedure
 - Base procedure on Universal (Standard) Precautions

Standard Precautions

- Appropriate personal barriers (gloves, masks, eye protection, gowns) must be worn when performing procedures that may expose to infectious agents
- Hands must be washed before and after every patient contact and after glove removal
- “Touch” and “splash” surfaces must be pre-cleaned and disinfected
- Critical instruments must be sterilized
- Infectious waste must be disposed of appropriately

Appropriate Personal Barriers **Must Be Worn**

- **GLOVES**
- **SAFETY GLASSES**
- **DISPOSABLE MASKS**
- **DISPOSABLE GOWNS**

Hand Washing / Hand-Hygiene

- **PATIENT APPOINTMENTS**
 - Before patient appt
 - After patient appt
- **GLOVE REMOVAL**
 - Immediately after removal
- **AS NEEDED**
 - Any time throughout appt

Touch/Splash Surfaces Must Be **Pre-Cleaned & Disinfected**

- Surface & counter areas
- Clean first, then disinfect
 - Clean: removing gross contamination
 - Disinfect: kill germs

Critical Instruments

- Instruments introduced directly into bloodstream
- Non-invasive instruments that come in contact with mucous membranes or bodily substances
- Instruments that can potentially penetrate skin from use or misuse

- Select Product

Physical Barriers

- Latex vs non Latex
- Powder vs Powerless
- Size matters!

- Select Product

Hand Hygiene

- **Liquid**
- **Medical grade**
- **Anti-microbial not that critical**
- **No-rinse is an alternative when no access to sink with running water**

- Select Product

Disinfectants

- **Spray, Towelette, Liquid**

- **Hospital Grade**

 - Broader Spectrum of Kill

- **Non-Alcohol Based**

- **Kill some but NOT ALL GERMS**

- **NOTE: Disinfectants do NOT sterilize**

- Select Product

Sterilants

- Autoclave vs. Cold Sterilization

Cold Sterilization

- 2 EPA Approved Ingredients
 - ❑ \geq 2% Glutaraldehyde
 - ❑ \geq 7.5% Hydrogen Peroxide
- Soaking Time
- Use/Reuse Time

- Select Product

Infectious Wastes

- Latex Gloves
- Aromatic Absorbent Beads
- Shovel with Scraper
- White Plastic Bag
- Absorbent Towel
- Sani-Cloth Wipe
- Red Biohazard Bag
- Hand Towelette
- Body Fluid Spill Kit

• Arrange for a Written Plan

Required Elements

1. Categorization of Employees
2. HBV Vaccination
3. Training Plan & Training Records
4. **Implementation Protocols**
 - ❖ **Work Practice Controls**
5. Emergency Procedures
6. Post-exposure Evaluation & Follow-up

- Practice What You Preach

Implement Your Infection Plan

1. Train Professional Staff
2. Train Front Office Staff
3. Execute Work Practice Controls
4. Conduct Annual & As Needed Training

Preach What You Practice to Your PATIENTS

Infection Control & Patients

1. Discuss why IC is important
2. Instruct them on how to do it
3. Suggest/supply products to use

Infection Control Resources



- **INFECTION CONTROL IN THE HEARING AID CLINIC**
- **INFECTION CONTROL IN THE AUDIOLOGY CLINIC**
- **INFECTION CONTROL FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

Infection Control for Patients

FREE Resources

Why Cleaning Your Hearing Aids or Earmolds is Important

The ear is a dark, warm, moist place where bacteria and other germs, some good and some bad, like to grow. These bacteria or germs get on the surfaces of your hearing aid or earmold and continue to grow.

Some of these bacteria or germs are not part of your ear's normal environment and can easily infect the skin of your ear canal.

This may cause:

- itchiness
- redness
- swelling
- pain
- ear odor

Poor maintenance is a common reason why hearing aids do not work. Most of the time, hearing aid repairs are necessary due to:

- ear wax
- body oil
- various moisture
- dirty hands
- oily hands

All of the above can cause clogging and breakdown of hearing aids. If you don't clean your hearing aids appropriately, in a short period of time earwax, dirt, or moisture will clog up components such that your hearing aids will need to be repaired. If they're out of warranty, the repair will cost you money. More importantly, you'll be without your hearing aids during the repair period, and we want to avoid that.

Cleaning your hearing aids the right way is important! Wiping them with a tissue is not enough. Using alcohol pads is not a good idea. Here's why:


Your hearing aids will become contaminated with bacteria or other germs. Since these devices are worn in the ear, it is important to make sure that your hearing aids are cleaned and disinfected properly.

Your hearing aids are made from special material that requires special cleaning. Using alcohol will ruin surfaces quickly. Only use what is recommended by your hearing health care professional.


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Properly Cleaning Your Hearing Aids


When not in use, hearing aids should be kept clean and free of ear wax and dirt. To appropriately clean your hearing aid, follow these steps at the end of the day.



Pull a disinfectant towelette (Audiowipes®) from the container. Remove the hearing aid and place it in the towelette.



Wipe the entire hearing aid surface.



Open the battery door, remove the battery, and place the hearing aid in a drying unit or hard case. Repeat the process with the other hearing aid.

Do NOT use alcohol to clean hearing aids. Alcohol will ruin surfaces quickly. Use only those products provided by your hearing health care professional.

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Prescription Pad

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Laminated Instruction Sheet

OAKTREE PRODUCTS, INC.

Alison Dees

800.347.1960 ext. 36

adees@oaktreeproducts.com



www.oaktreeproducts.com

www.audiologyonline.com/channels.oaktree.asp