

# IPC STANDARD HIGHLIGHTS

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2026

## ABOUT

The Infection Prevention and Control Standards in the Oral Health Care Facility are established by the Saskatchewan Oral Health Professions (SOHP) and approved by the Councils of the respective regulatory bodies.

This document summarizes the most recent approved revisions, including new sections, additional requirements, clarifications, and editorial updates. Registrants are encouraged to review the revised Standard in its entirety, as this highlights summary is provided for reference only.

## NEW SECTIONS

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### IPC-06-16 - Maintenance of Records

Any records or correspondence with respect to infection prevention and control must be retained for the minimum length of 10 years.

### IPC-06-17 - Health Canada Medical Devices Regulations

All medical & dental devices used in direct patient treatment must meet the requirements of [Health Canada's Medical Devices Regulations](#).

## AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING SECTIONS

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### IPC-02-01 - General Considerations

Documentation of waterline monitoring test results, including any required retesting, to verify adherence to potable water quality standards.

### IPC-02-02 - Education and Training

Unlicensed personnel must complete a formal training course or module from a recognized educational institution focused on infection prevention and control in the dental facility.

### IPC-02-05 - Exposure Prevention

A risk assessment must be performed prior to any task to evaluate the risk of disease transmission and determine if additional precautions are required or delay of treatment until the patient is not in an infectious state (see IPC-06-11 Patients Infected with *M. tuberculosis*).

### IPC-02-09 - Hand Hygiene

Providing the hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene should be achieved using an alcohol handrub **by following manufacturer instructions**. Sufficient product must remain in contact with the hands for a minimum of 15 seconds.

### IPC-03-05 - Protective Clothing

Headwear must be treated as protective clothing.

### IPC-04-02 - Processing Critical Items

#### Cleaning:

Instruments must be cleaned immediately after use. If cleaning is not possible, an enzymatic product is recommended **to prevent organic matter from drying**.

#### Loading the Sterilizer Chamber:

A PCD may be commercially manufactured or created in house by selecting one instrument package for the load that is the most challenging to sterilize and placing **metal instruments** and a type 5 chemical indicator and/or a BI at the center of this package.

It is required that the date, **load number** and sterilizer used be stamped on the product wrapping. If using a marker for labelling, use one made for this specific purpose. **To prevent compromising the integrity of the package, write only on the clear plastic surface of bags or pouches (avoiding the paper portion) and on the closure tape of wrapped packages.**

### IPC-04-04 - Monitoring Sterilization

#### Monitoring Processes:

Each day oral health care facilities must document and retain records from in-house biological monitoring. These

records must indicate the sterilizer **load number**, date, and signature of staff member completing the process.

- Each sterilization cycle must contain one class 5 chemical integrating indicator which has been inserted into a Process Challenge Device (PCD). The sterilization cycle must not be released until the class 5 chemical integrating indicator has been verified or each package must contain a class 5 chemical integrating indicator. **The date, load number, and sterilizer used must be documented and then signed by a SOHCP.**
- The stamping of sterilization packages with the date, **load number**, and sterilizer used will allow this identification process to be more efficient.

#### IPC-05-05 - Dental Unit Waterlines

##### All Water Systems

- **All dental unit waterlines must be tested and results documented yearly. If dental unit waterline testing exceeds 500cfu/mL, the dental unit waterlines must be disinfected according to manufacturer instructions and retested.**  
Mandatory annual dental waterlines testing is available through the Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory or University of Saskatchewan College of Dentistry Sterilizer & Water Monitoring program.

#### IPC-06-12 - On-going Infection Prevention and Control Evaluation

- Facility audit by the Quality Assurance Practice Audit (QAPA) program conducted by the CDSS or audit by another regulator.

#### APPENDIX: Disinfectants

Disinfectants must be selected according to the surface or item it is being used on, its classification and manufacturer instructions.

Intermediate level disinfectants must be used on non-critical items or clinical contact surfaces when not covered with a barrier. Intermediate level disinfectants must have a Drug Identification Number (DIN), a tuberculocidal or mycobactericidal claim on the label and be registered as a hospital grade/health care facility disinfectant. Intermediate level disinfectants destroy all

vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria, most viruses and most fungi, but not bacterial spores.

Low level disinfectants are used for housekeeping surfaces unless the surface is contaminated with blood or saliva, in which cleaning and disinfecting with intermediate level disinfectant is necessary.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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