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Infection Control in Primary Dental Care

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Preface

We have attempted in this book to summarise the principles of good infection control in a primary care dental environment for all members of the dental team. It should be recognised that the underlying science and engineering principles are constant worldwide. We have tried to give the reader a summary of the background science to enable a better understanding of the reasons for the implementation of certain protocols. There is nothing to suggest that microorganisms change their behaviour as a result of geographical variations, but it must be acknowledged that disease prevalence does differ from area to area as does the susceptibility of the population. It must be recognised, however, that the details of what is considered to be good practice do vary from region to region. Some of the variation is determined by local attitudes to risk aversion, some of it depends on local economics and some of it has evolved through custom and practice over a long period of time. We have therefore not championed any particular guidance as this is the remit of local standard setters and professional bodies. Most of the chapters have a short list of additional resources that the reader may wish to refer to, but we have avoided a fully referenced text to avoid any undue interruption for the reader.

Both of the authors have a background in dental practice with additional experience and qualifications in microbiology and infection control. We do recognise the challenges posed by infection control in the safe delivery of dental care and acknowledge this comes with both cost and time pressures. Nevertheless, it is important that appropriate protocols are adopted to safeguard the general health and well-being of both patients and members of staff as far as practically possible.

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