



AL-AZHAR DENTAL COLLEGE

(APPROVED BY DENTAL COUNCIL OF INDIA
& AFFILIATED TO KERALA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCE)
RUN BY NOORUL ISLAM TRUST
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Date

Date:01-05-2018

Hospital Infection Control and Sterilization Policy

AIM:

To prevent and control the transmission of infectious diseases among patients, staffs, students, and visitors.

PRACTICES:

Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC) is designed to address all aspects of infection control in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. This includes the following infection control practices.

1. Standard Precautions: Our hospital recognizes the risks associated with Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) and takes action to prevent or reduce these risks in patients and staff members. This includes implementing Standard Precautions, which are basic infection prevention measures that are used with all patients. These measures include hand hygiene, the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and safe handling of needles and other sharp instruments.

Hand hygiene is an essential component of infection control in healthcare setting. Practices good hand hygiene by washing hands thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol based sanitizer. This includes the four moments of hand hygiene:

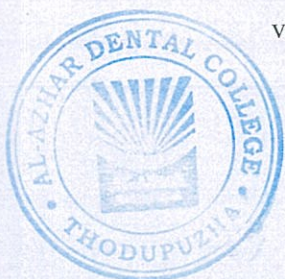
- before touching a patient,
- before performing a procedure,
- after contact with body fluids or excretions, and
- after touching the patient or his/her immediate surroundings.


Personal Protective Equipments (PPE): All dental staffs, students wear appropriate PPE including gloves, mask, face shields.



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2. **Patient Screening:** Patients are screened for infectious diseases and risk factors before treatment. This includes taking a thorough medical history, assessing the patient's immune status, and performing any necessary diagnostic tests. If a patient is suspected of having an infectious disease, they are referred to the appropriate healthcare facility.
3. **Sterilization and Disinfection:** Proper sterilization and disinfection procedures are followed for all dental equipments, instruments, and surfaces. These procedures are performed by trained personnel. These techniques include autoclaving, chemical sterilization, or dry heat sterilization. Materials used include physical and chemical agents which disinfect and sterilize the equipment and surfaces to prevent the spread of infection.
4. **Environmental Controls:** Having measures to control the spread of infections in the environment, such as air ventilation and water management. Aerosols generated during dental procedures can spread infectious particles. Proper ventilation and use of high-speed are used to minimize aerosol spread.
5. **Waste management:** Our hospital is authorized by the prescribed authority (IMAGE) to safely and appropriately manage and handle Bio-medical waste. This includes implementing appropriate waste management practices, including segregation, collection, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal of bio-medical waste. Staff members handling bio-medical waste are provided with personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and ensure their safety while handling potentially hazardous material.
6. **Sharps Safety:** Uses proper techniques to handle and dispose of sharps (needle burner) to prevent accidental injuries and potential exposure to infectious agents.
7. **Staff Training:** The hospital recognizes the importance of regular training and education of staff members in infection control practices. This includes providing regular training sessions, workshops, and continuing education programs to staff members to ensure that they are up-to-date on the latest infection control practices and guidelines.
8. **Reporting and Monitoring:** Our hospital have a system in place for reporting and monitoring infections and outbreaks.
9. **Pre and post exposure prophylaxis:** Our hospital provides appropriate pre and post exposure prophylaxis to concerned staff members and students to prevent or reduce the risks of occupational exposure to infectious diseases. This includes Hepatitis B vaccination and Post Exposure Prophylaxis.




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10. Maintenance of Records: Proper record keeping of infection control policies and practices are maintained for regulatory and audit purposes such as registers for sterilization and disinfection, biomedical waste management, and needle stick injury to ensure that these processes are being carried out effectively and in compliance with regulations.

GOAL:

By implementing these policies, we can reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections and ensure the safety of staffs, students, patients and visitors.

Hepatitis B Vaccination Policy

“Prevention is better than cure”. Health care workers who are at increased risk of exposure to infectious diseases like hepatitis B. Infection control practices prevents or minimise the spread of infections in healthcare settings. The CDC recommends that all healthcare workers including dental professionals, receive the Hepatitis B vaccine series as a preventive measure against the infection. Our institution follows the vaccination guidelines and recommendations of CDC. As per the recommendations, all the students, teaching and non-teaching staff who come in contact with patients or infectious material will be required to receive the Hepatitis-B vaccine.

AIM:

To vaccinate the fresh students and newly joined teaching and non-teaching faculties against Hepatitis B.

PRACTICES:

Our institution organizes vaccination drives on a yearly basis in collaboration with Al-Azhar Medical College. It provides an opportunity for all teaching staffs, students, other clinical staffs to get vaccinated against hepatitis B infection. Vaccine for hepatitis B includes 3 doses at regular intervals of 0 (1st dose), 1month (2nd dose) and 6 months (3rd dose). Vaccination programmes are scheduled accordingly.

All students are instructed to get vaccinated at the time of admission and provide proof for the same. If not vaccinated, they are advised to take it in the first year itself and update the status of vaccination. This is to ensure that they are protected from the infections while



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working with patients. However, exemptions from vaccination will be allowed if they submit adequate medical documentation.

As a part of vaccination drive, the newly joined students, teaching and non-teaching staff can avail the vaccination/ booster dose. Immunisation registers will be maintained accordingly.

GUIDELINES:

1. If anyone not vaccinated earlier, they are instructed to get it done at the earliest
2. If there is any lack of clarity about earlier immunization, they are advised to do an antibody titre test. If,
 - Sufficient antibody- no need for further dose/booster
 - Insufficient antibody- booster dose is advised
 - No antibody- 3 doses of vaccine is advised

Post Exposure Prophylaxis

PEP is considered, if there is any kind of exposure to an infectious agent. It is used only in emergency situations and started as soon as possible and always within 72 hours after a recent exposure to pathogen.

Post Exposure Prophylaxis for Hepatitis B

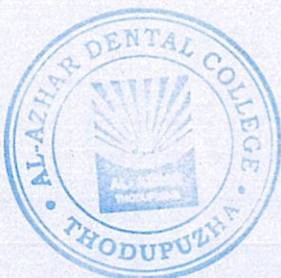
○ If previously vaccinated:

- Test exposed person for anti-HBs

1. If adequate- no treatment
2. If inadequate- Take HBIG x1 and vaccine booster

○ Unvaccinated:

Take HBIG x 1 and initiate hepatitis B vaccine series
(dose – 0.06ml/kg IM as soon as possible)



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Post Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV

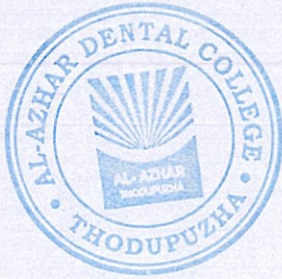
Basic regimen

Zidovudine (300mg) +Lamivudin (150mg) hourlyx 4 weeks

Expanded regimen

Basic regimen + Nelfinavir 750mg 8 hourlyx 4 weeks

GOAL: By following these vaccination policies and guidelines, it helps to protect the health care workers, students and their patients from the transmission of infectious diseases.



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