



Infection Control learning sheet #1 February 2017

Looking to get a head start on 2017 for Infection Control in the practice - here are three areas to check

1. Spills Kit

My advice is don't overfill it and just keep enough in it for a couple of spills. Check it this week for Things to protect you

- 2 x pairs gloves (disposable are fine)
- 2 x aprons (leave them in their plastic bag as staff often think these are plastic bags)
- 2 x masks (with loops rather than ties for ease of use) and safety glasses or a face shield

Things to reduce splash

- 2 x vomit bags (staff don't always remember to give one to a pt. who has already vomited)
- 2 x glad bags of kitty litter or equivalent absorbing/clumping agent (deodorizes vomit too)
- wad of paper towel leaflets for a liquid spill (easier to use than a roll of paper towel)

Things to clean up

- 4 scoops made from cereal packet cardboard or cut up plastic folders
- 2 x yellow clinical waste bags
- A small packet of wet wipes (will be contaminated so dispose after use)

2. Reception staff access to materials for Infection Control

Ensure you have your alcohol based handrub (ABHR) and a tub of detergent wipes within reach. Check for access to (I suggest a receptionists tool kit as below)

- 4 x gloves to use when receiving tissues/specimens etc
- 2 x masks for coughing pts. Place each in a small glad bag so pt. is not put off when handing them out
- 2 x vomit bags. Place a pair in the toilet, in consulting rooms and treatment room
- 2 x thick plastic bags for disposal of above
- Small packet of wet ones for cleaning smeared glass and for handing out for sticky fingers
- Thick wad of paper towel. Emergency absorbing agent for large blood spills etc.
- Microfibre cloth. Great for drying off wiped glass surface

3. Hand hygiene compliance

How do you think you are travelling? Have a go at this quiz!

- How many staff say they do hands between pts? Correct answer is before and after, not just between!
- Is there any alcohol at the sink? It needs to be at point of care - if at the sink, compliance drops to 60%!
- You supply compatible hand cream? Hand hygiene is not complete without handcream 2 - 4 times/day!
- You use 2 or 4% chlorhexidine handwash for wound care? Use alcohol as gold standard instead
- You perform hand hygiene after every glove removal? Essential - gloves are not a perfect barrier

How did you go? Happy new year!

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