

Book Reviews

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Infection control for the dental team, 1st edition (2009)

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This book forms part of the larger Quintessence series ranging over many aspects of dentistry and dental practice. It aims to address the needs of practitioners and to act as a training resource. The text would also probably be of some value to dental practitioners as well as to students at the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

The text is split into a number of chapters covering all aspects of infection control, followed at the end by examples of checklists that would be useful in the development of practice protocols, manuals, and wall charts.

The first chapter is clearly meant as an introduction but as a result may be considered to be a little light on detail on some matters. However, it does put across a good approach and background for infection control practice. Chapters 2 and 3 are helpful, especially the material regarding surgery design. There is excellent coverage of current equipment types used and requirements for decontamination, with helpful material on testing, maintenance, and instrument storage.

One challenge faced by the authors has been the variation in national guidelines for many of the matters discussed, and the rapid rate at which such guidance and recommendations seem to change. As a result, the book acts as a very good general guide, explaining the rationale and concepts underlying contemporary practice, but without going into very detailed specifics that may vary from country to country. Although it may need to be read in conjunction with a copy of local recommendations, it is a valuable aid in explaining why such recommendations are made as well as giving practical guidance. It would be especially useful when reviewing current practice or even designing new facilities. Consequently, it would also be helpful for trainees and for new members of practice staff.

In summary, this book is a useful aid to daily practice but cannot be used in isolation and should clearly be supplemented by consultation to the most up-to-date local guidelines and regulations in this field.

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