

USAF Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service

The United States Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service maintains a website at http://airforcemedicine.afms.mil/idc/groups/public/documents/webcontent/knowledge-junction.hcst?functionalarea=DentalEvalConsultation&doctype=subpage&docname=CTB_106773. The purpose of this organization is to provide guidance and assistance to dental military personnel in the areas of operational problems and methods, materials, procedures, and equipment evaluation. Although this site is for the benefit of the USAF dental personnel, it can provide valuable information to the non-military dental professional. This organization is located in Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Illinois. It consists of four areas: materials evaluation, equipment evaluation, facility standards and design, and infection control and safety. For example, the materials section might include items such as impression materials used in dentistry.

The website is divided into the following sections: *Alerts*, *Announcements*, *Product Evaluations*, *Continuing Education*, *Dental Digital Radiology Solution*, *Infection Control*, *New Products on the Market*, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *Literature Review* and *Dental Readiness*. In addition, the webpage provides links to Air Force Dentistry, e-mail Notifications, About the DECS, Contact Us, Customer Satisfaction Survey, and a Site Map.

In the *Alerts* section, many links are provided which notify readers of urgent problems, recalls and nationwide alerts. The *Announcements* section is similar in that it links general announcements and information for federal dental services to the website. Most of these links also can provide timely information for any dental profession. An example is the link to H1N1 Flu Resources.

The *Product Evaluations* section gives categories in which browser can see a list of products that have been evaluated or rated. Some of the products that are evaluated include amalgams, bleaching agents, bonding agents, and cements. In addition, dental equipment, dental laboratory supplies, such as casting machines, and infection control products as listed. The *Continuing Education* section is provided for federal personnel to meet mandatory training requirements and does not seem to accommodate any other people.

The *Dental Digital Radiology Solution* section provides buttons for many categories that address facility issues, equipment, infection control, workflow and training. Although these categories are specific to the Air Force clinics, they contain much valuable information about digital imaging and equipment. One of the most informative sections of the website is the section on *Infection Control and Safety*. Not only are the guidelines from the Air Force available, but also continuing education, new products, resources and literature reviews are included in this section.

The section on *New Products on the Market* gives product information about numerous items under dental materials, laboratory products, equipment, and infection control. Most of the information is directly from the manufacturer. The DECS has not evaluated the products and cannot support or deny the manufacturer's claims about the products. The section on *Frequently Asked Questions* can be very applicable to every dental professional. It contains questions about all categories of dental practice, such as 'What are the limitations of bonding?' This section is divided into the categories of dental materials, dental laboratory, facility design, dental equipment, infection control, safety and miscellaneous topics.

The *Literature Review* section links timely article reviews on topics such as dental materials, equipment and infection control. The final section on *Dental Readiness* provides teaching resources for federal clinics. Although access to the some of the material is limited, the PowerPoint presentations are available for download or viewing. In addition, some of the text briefing materials, such as 'cements' are also available for viewing and downloading.

Overall, this website gives basic and current information on many aspects of dental practice particularly dental materials, digital radiography, and infection control. Not only military personnel, but also any dental professional can find useful information here.

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