
The National Society of Dental Practitioners and the Dentist's Advantage Insurance Program for Dentists

RISK MANAGEMENT ALERT

CDC HANDPIECE STERILIZATION GUIDELINES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has changed its [guidelines](#) concerning sterilization of handpieces that cannot be autoclaved. Former guidelines requiring autoclaving for all handpieces were in conflict with manufacture's sterilization instructions for several new devices. CDC guidelines now allow for FDA cleared handpieces to be sterilized following the manufactures instructions. This change affects newer devices that have components that can be damaged by the high heat of autoclaving.

It is best to check with the handpiece manufacturer before sterilizing new handpieces for the first time.

For more information on infection prevention best practices, review the CDC's document: [Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care](#).

The CDC also offers, [DentalCheck](#) a free mobile app, [available for both iOS and Android devices](#). CDC DentalCheck helps dental health care personnel ensure they are meeting the minimum expectations for safe care practices to prevent dental infections.

© *Dentist's Advantage, 2018* © *The National Society of Dental Practitioners, 2018*

Risk Management services are provided by Dentist's Advantage and the NSDP to assist the insured in fulfilling his or her responsibilities for the control of potential loss-producing situations involving their dental operations. The information contained in this document is not intended as legal advice. Laws are under constant review by courts and the states and are different in each jurisdiction. For legal advice relating to any subject addressed in this document, dentists are advised to seek the services of a local personal attorney. The information is provided "AS IS" without warranty of any kind and Dentist's Advantage and NSDP expressly disclaims all warranties and conditions with regard to any information contained, including all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Dentist's Advantage and NSDP assume no liability of any kind for information and data contained or for any legal course of action you may take or diagnosis or treatment made in reliance thereon.