



Infection Control

This document outlines processes to be followed to minimize the risk of transmission of, or exposure to, potentially harmful organisms.

Expected Outcomes:

Infection Control procedures are implemented to ensure the safety of the client/patient and clinician during all procedures. Guidelines should adhere to universal health precautions (e.g., prevention of bodily injury and transmission of infectious disease).

Clinical Indications:

With regard to the audiology clinic, this statement indicates that infection control procedures apply to every patient and not only selectively to those who may be identified or suspected as having a potentially infectious disease.

Clinical Processes:

Infection Control includes the decontamination, cleaning, disinfecting and sterilisation of multiple-use equipment and surfaces before reuse is carried out according to facility-specific infection control policies and procedures, and according to manufacturer's instructions.

It also includes the appropriate disposal of single-use equipment.

Detailed instructions are contained in the Infection Control Protocol (Draft) available on the NZAS Website.

Settings/Equipment Specifications:

Infection control standards should be checked by monitoring procedures to ensure all clinical and ancillary staff adhere to these procedures.

The terms cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising each have a specific (legal) definition. For example, a product that only cleans cannot be called a disinfectant, and a disinfectant cannot be called a sterilant unless it has been demonstrated to meet the requirements of a sterilant. It is important to understand the differences between these terms.



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Documentation:

Each clinical practice must have written infection control protocols which are available to all staff. It is recommended to use the NZAS Infection Control Protocol associated with this document.

Acknowledgement:

This standard is based on the information and recommendations contained in Guideline: Infection Control in Audiological Practice. Infection Control Task Force (Infection Control Task Force members: John Greer Clark, Ph.D., Robert J. Kemp, MBA, A.U. Bankaitis, Ph.D.) American AAA. Audiology Today, Volume 15:5, 2003.

New Zealand Regulatory Agencies Concerned with Infection Control

OSH – 1992 Health and Safety in Employment Act

OSH Information Series– The Safe Occupational Use of Glutaraldehyde in the Health Industries. <http://www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdf/glutaral.pdf>

Amendment to the HSE Act ?2002 ?5 May 2003

NZ Public Health and Disability Act 2000

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Bill

Accident Compensation Corporation

Small Business Guide to Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992

Healthcare Industry – Guidelines for the Provision of Facilities and General Safety in the Workplace: part 2 Specific Hazards – 2.1 Biological/Infectious Hazards.

Guideline: Infection Control in Audiological Practice. Infection Control Task Force (Infection Control Task Force members: John Greer Clark, Ph.D., Robert J.

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Kemp, MBA, A.U. Bankaitis, Ph.D.) American AAA. Audiology Today, Volume 15:5, 2003.

NZAS Infection Control Protocol (Draft) – NZAS Website.