

Background

- South West Sydney Local Health District Oral Health Service comprises eight dental clinics.
- The clinics are located from Bowral to Yagoona spanning a distance of 100km
- It services a population of almost one million people of diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- Clinic size ranges from 3 to 15 chairs
- Variation in clinic layout impacts on storage capacity and practices
- The staff of 150 consists of dentists, dental therapists, dental assistants, administrative staff and one clinical nurse consultant (part-time)

Specific Objectives

- Conduct a Gap Analysis of :
 - 1) AS/NZ 4815 (2006) for clinics sterilising on-site.
 - 2) Practices and equipment
 - 3) Assessment of Staff knowledge of Infection Prevention via a survey.
 - 4) Storage of stock - sterile and unsterile
- Ensure all practices were standardised
- Review all staff vaccination records for currency
- Confirm all criteria of NSQHS Standards 2nd Edition would be met within a time frame of 7 months to achieve accreditation in June 2019

Materials and Methods

- A time line and action plan was developed to keep on track given the time limitations
- A Gap analysis of reprocessing was undertaken, using the Clinical Excellence Commission tool: Oral/Dental Health Service Self Assessment AS/NZ 4187:2014 plus a QARS audit tool for AS/NZ 4815 :2006
- Audits conducted over a 2 month period included hand hygiene, AMS, PPE, stock storage, aseptic technique, environmental and general practice
- A survey was sent out to all staff in January 2019 to assess knowledge and educational needs
- The Infection Prevention committee was reconvened in December 2018
- Consultation with staff occurred in January and February to discuss the rationale for the changes
- Staff vaccination records were reviewed and emails were sent to non-compliant staff

Results and Actions

- The Gap Analysis plus Audit results identified urgent changes were required throughout all clinics. An intensive program was developed with the following outcomes:
 - 1) Latex gloves were replaced with nitrile and linen gowns were replaced with a fluid resistant type.
 - 2) The AS/NZ4815 Gap Analysis showed overall compliance with some minor changes required
 - 3) Storage of sterile and non-sterile stock in six of the clinics did not meet standards and these were reconfigured
 - 4) Infection Prevention education was provided to all staff to improve knowledge and enable change
 - 5) Policies and procedures were reviewed for currency
 - 6) All staff vaccination records were updated
 - 7) Storage of sterile stock was reconfigured to meet standard

Staff wearing PPE



Sterile stock store



Conclusion

- The profile of infection prevention throughout the SWSLHD Oral Health Service was promoted within all clinics.
- Staff reported that their knowledge of infection prevention had increased
- Staff embraced the enormous changes to equipment and practices
- All Standard 3 criteria were met during NSQHS survey
- Accreditation was attained
- The team achieved the perfect smile



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