

B/49773/AG/ECHS/Dental/Policy

20 Mar 2020

(All Regional Centres ECHS)

**ADVISORY OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED AGAINST COVID-19
FOR DENTAL TREATMENT AT ECHS POLYCLINICS**

1. Please refer to CO ECHS letter No B/49770/AG/ECHS /Treatment Policy dt 18 Mar 2020 and even No dated 19 Mar 2020.
2. In view of WHO declaring COVID-19 viral infection Pandemic, preventive measures at community and individual levels against COVID-19 are to be implemented with outmost priority.
3. Dental care personnel's always carries the risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19 infection due to face to face communication with patients, frequent exposures to saliva, blood and other body fluids and handling of sharp instruments.
4. It is advisable that patients having severe pain and infection and all patients needing emergency care to be treated , after taking all necessary precautions and all elective procedures be rescheduled for a later date. It should be done as a last resort in consultation with Medical offr and local authorities. All possible steps to be taken to stop transmission of infection. All dental care personnel are to be updated with the advisory issued by Govt agencies from time to time. All steps to be taken to control transmission of infection.
5. It is stressed upon to adhere to universal infection prevention and control guidelines in all dental care facilities of ECHS PC's.
6. The undermentioned preventive measures are to be followed:-
 - (a) Augmenting the reception area with physical barriers to limit close contact and maintain safe distance from potentially infections patients. Protective mask to be used by all staff while dealing with clientele.
 - (b) Patient with symptom of a respiratory infection in last 48 hrs (eg. Cough, sore throat, fever, sneezing or shortness of breath) and patient with travel history outside India in the previous two weeks to an area affected by the pandemic or has come into contact with suspected COVID-19 patient once identified be further referred to MO for evaluation and all dental appointments to be rescheduled.

(c) PPE (Personal Protective Eqpt) to be used by DO and staff which are appropriate for the procedures being performed. Wearing of gloves, three layered surgical face masks, disposable gowns, disposable head caps, protective eye wears and disposable gloves must be ensured. Patient must be properly draped.

(d) Aerosol generating procedures like scaling/restoration are to be generally avoided but may be performed in highly essential/emergency situations. Use of ultrasonic scalers (aerosol producing) to be minimized and hand scalars can be used alternatively.

(e) Air rotor hand piece, reusable eqpts and instruments should be autoclaved/sterilized after each patient.

(f) Hand hygiene by washing with soap and water for atleast 20 seconds before and after contact with patients or use of alcohol based hand sanitizer with atleast 70.6% alcohol must be ensured by DO and para dental staff.

(g) Salient pts to be ensured:-

(i) Hand sanitizers for all patients who enters or exit the surgery to be given or made to wash hands with soap : Same to be followed by attendant/staff entering the surgery.

(ii) Use of disposable shoe cover or remove shoes while entering surgery.

(iii) House keeping staff must use heavy duty gloves and covered boots as a part of their PPE.

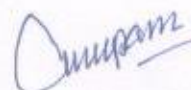
(iv) Proper waste disposal procedure to be adopted.

(v) Ensure adequate availability of disinfectant consumables and PPE.

(vi) Fumigation of the surgery is advised.

7. The detail guidelines elaborated upon in the guidelines issued by MoH & FW and O/o DGAFMS letter No 402/2/n Cov/DGAFMS/DG-3A dated 05 Mar 2020 and O/o DGDS letter No 2221/Gen/DGDS-2 dt 17 Mar 2020.

8. This letter to be circulated to all PCs uder your AOR treating dental patients.



(Anupam N Adhulia)
Col
Dir (Med)
for MD ECHS

Encl : As above.

Internal

Ops & Coord, Claim Sec } - for info.
P & FC Sec, C&L Sec }

Stats & Automation Sec - for uploading the letter on ECHS website.