

# Infection Prevention and Control Lapse Report

## Initial Report

Premises/facility under investigation (name and address)	The Tooth Corner, Wingham 395 Josephine Street Wingham ON N0G2W0
Type of premise/facility: (eg., clinic, personal services setting)	Dental office
Date Board of Health became aware of IPAC lapse	July 4, 2025
Date of initial report posting	Sept. 19, 2025
Date of initial report update(s) (if applicable)	
How the IPAC lapse was identified	Complaint made by a member of the public.
Summary description of the IPAC lapse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instrument/equipment manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU's) were not available for review and/or not being followed.</li> <li>2. Cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of instruments on site did not follow Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment/Devices (May 2013), including no reuse of single use items.</li> <li>3. Improper documentation of sterilization records and equipment maintenance.</li> <li>4. Personal Protective Equipment was not worn appropriately.</li> </ol>

## IPAC Lapse Investigation

Did the IPAC lapse involve a member of a regulatory college?	Yes i) Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) ii) College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO)
If yes, was the issue referred to the regulatory college?	Yes, reported to RCDSO and CDHO.

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Were any corrective measures recommended and/or implemented?

July 11, 2025 – Initial inspection

July 25, 2025 – Reinspection

**Manufacturer Instructions For Use (MIFU)**

- Make MIFU documents for all instruments and equipment available on site for staff to review sterilization parameters.
- Instruments and equipment reprocessed and sterilized with correct parameters as per MIFU.
- Clean and disinfect dental handpieces/motors using the appropriate detergent as per equipment MIFU.
- Ensure instruments are completely dried in the sterilizer, following the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU).
- Reprocess all items according to their MIFU, including the use of an internal chemical integrator (e.g., Type 4 or 5).

**IPAC**

**Physical Space**

- Maintain a one-way workflow (from dirty to clean) in the sterilization room to prevent cross-contamination.
- Ensure sharps containers are not filled beyond the indicated safety line.
- Complete and document regular scheduled environmental cleaning.
- Ensure countertops and dental chairs are nonporous and easily wipeable without degradation.
- Any countertops or surfaces in disrepair to be replaced/repaired.

**Reprocessing**

- Ensure all personnel involved in cleaning, disinfection, and/or sterilization of medical equipment or devices are properly trained and hold valid certification.
  - Clearly label wrapped packages when contents are not visible (e.g., wrapped cassettes).
  - Do not sterilize single-use items. Properly dispose of single use items.
  - Clean instruments immediately after use or keep them moist if immediate cleaning is not possible.
  - Rinse and inspect instruments after cleaning to ensure all residues are removed and instruments are in good working condition.
  - Clean, disinfect, dry, and store cleaning brushes after each use, or discard them if not reusable.
  - Disassemble instruments to their lowest components before sterilization.
  - Ensure instruments are not locked or engaged prior to sterilization.
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- Package instruments in a manner that ensures proper air removal, steam penetration, and contact with all surfaces.
- Dry instruments with a lint-free cloth before packaging.
- High-level disinfect (sterilization preferred) all semi-critical items between uses (e.g., handpiece motors).
- Internal chemical indicators (type 4) observed in all sterilized pouches.

#### **Documentation**

- Ensure all sterilization cycles are uploaded to the computer daily to validate successful sterilization.
- If processed load/package cannot be held back, use and document a Process Challenge Device (PCD) containing a Type 5 or 6 chemical integrator. Also, verify and document all relevant physical cycle parameters before releasing the load.
- Complete all documentation thoroughly for reprocessing and equipment maintenance.
- Use appropriate containers for disinfectant wipes and label them accordingly.
- Maintain all maintenance records in-office and ensure staff are informed of their location.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Ensure PPE is used only for its designated task and discarded immediately after use.
- Verify that staff are always wearing PPE correctly.
- Encourage staff to perform regular PPE and hand hygiene audits.

Please provide further details/steps

Tooth Corner staff responded immediately to implement IPAC practices as per current PIDAC Best Practice for cleaning and reprocessing of dental equipment. Some recommendations for practice improvements are in progress and require time to fully implement. Additional monitoring and inspections are being carried out.

HPPH consulted with Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health on July 25, 2025 and again on September 4, 2025 on a risk assessment and IPAC lapse protocol.

Reported to the RCDSO in July and offered an opportunity to co-inspect.

Reported to the CDHO September 16, 2025.

Date any order(s) or directive(s) were issued to the owners/operators (if applicable)

N/A

## Initial Report Comments and Contact Information

Any additional comments (do not include any personal information or personal health information)

Initial report posting delay as HPPH completed a complex investigation which included 2 inspections and consultation with Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health.

## Final Report

Date of final report posting:

Date any order(s) or directive(s) were issued to the owner/operator (if applicable)

N/A

Brief description of corrective measures taken

## If you have any further questions, please contact

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