

Some common errors

- Inconsistent PPE
- Gloved hands touching clean items (e.g. retrieval)
- Poor handling practice for sharps
- Hand hygiene time too short
- Attempted re-use of single use items
- Rusty and corroded items
- Inadequate records of steriliser cycles
- Poor loading of sterilizer chamber
- Limited understanding of S vs. B steam sterilizer cycles
- Lack of proper cycle records
- Poor storage practices for wrapped items



DO NOT cut off the bottom ties



DO NOT wear below the nose



DO NOT wear around the neck

Correct Mask Usage

Donning a Face Mask

Tie-on Masks are effective only if worn properly.
Ear-Loop Masks are not permitted in Clinics



Safety glasses must be worn while wearing a mask



1. Mold nosepiece to promote a close fit



2. Cover nose and mouth completely with the mask



3. Mask ties must be tied firmly and securely behind the head

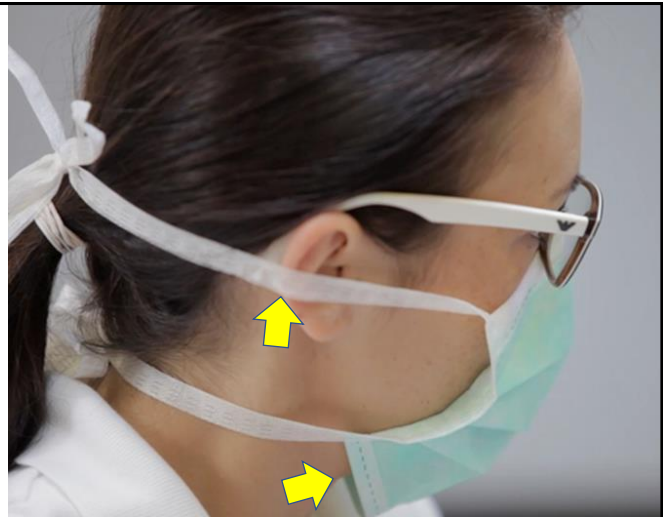
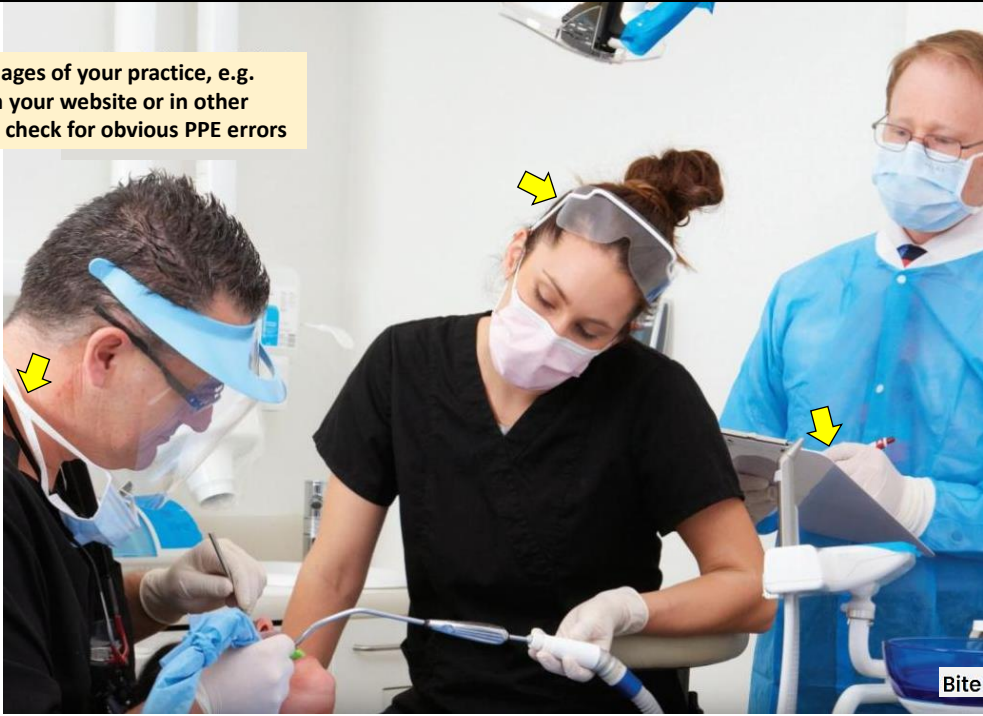
Eyewear for
operator and
patient are
both lacking



Incorrect PPE
for instrument
reprocessing

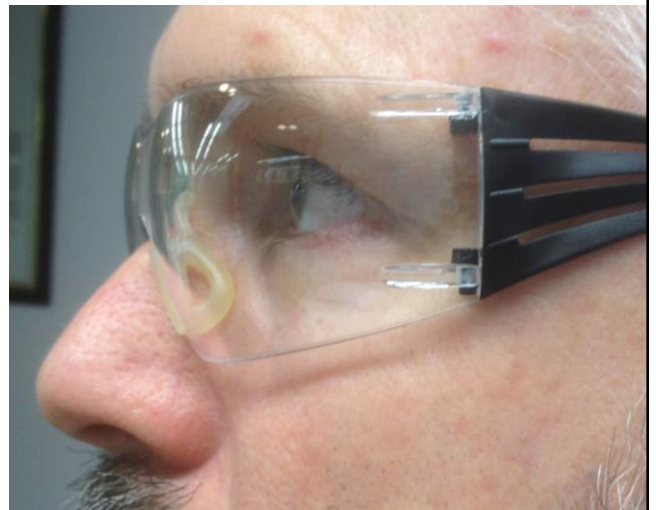


For public images of your practice, e.g. appearing on your website or in other publications, check for obvious PPE errors

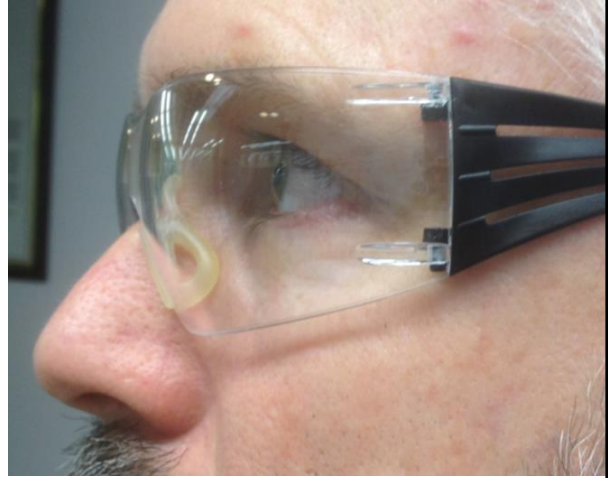




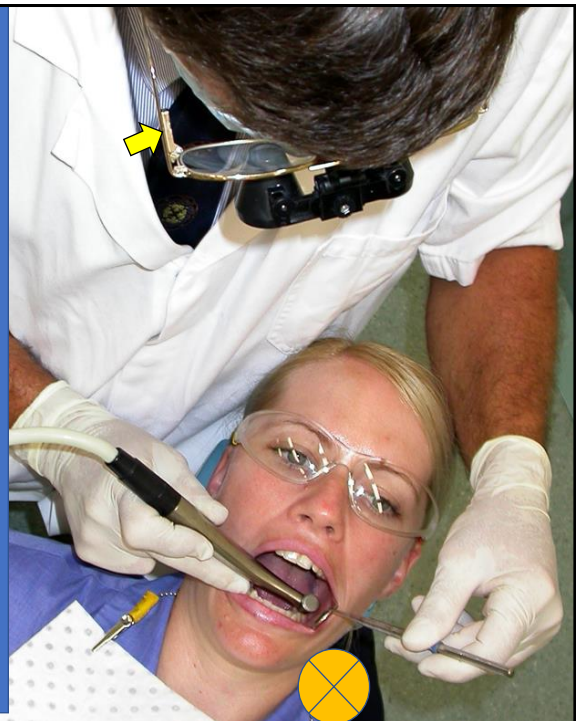
Corrective eyewear lacks side protection



Corrective eyewear that is safety compliant

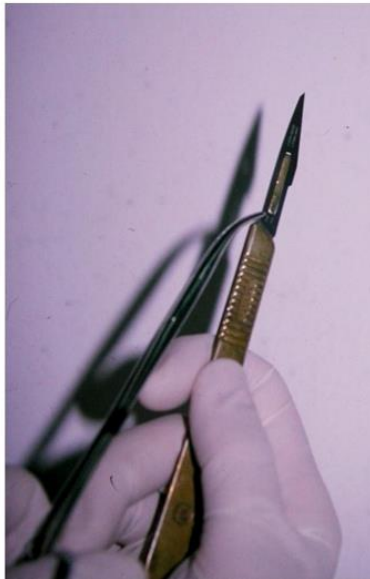


Can include bifocals and trifocals





Layering concept: If wearing scrubs as protection at work, what do people wear while travelling home after work?



Incorrect storage of items



Suboptimal vs. nonconforming instrument storage practices



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18



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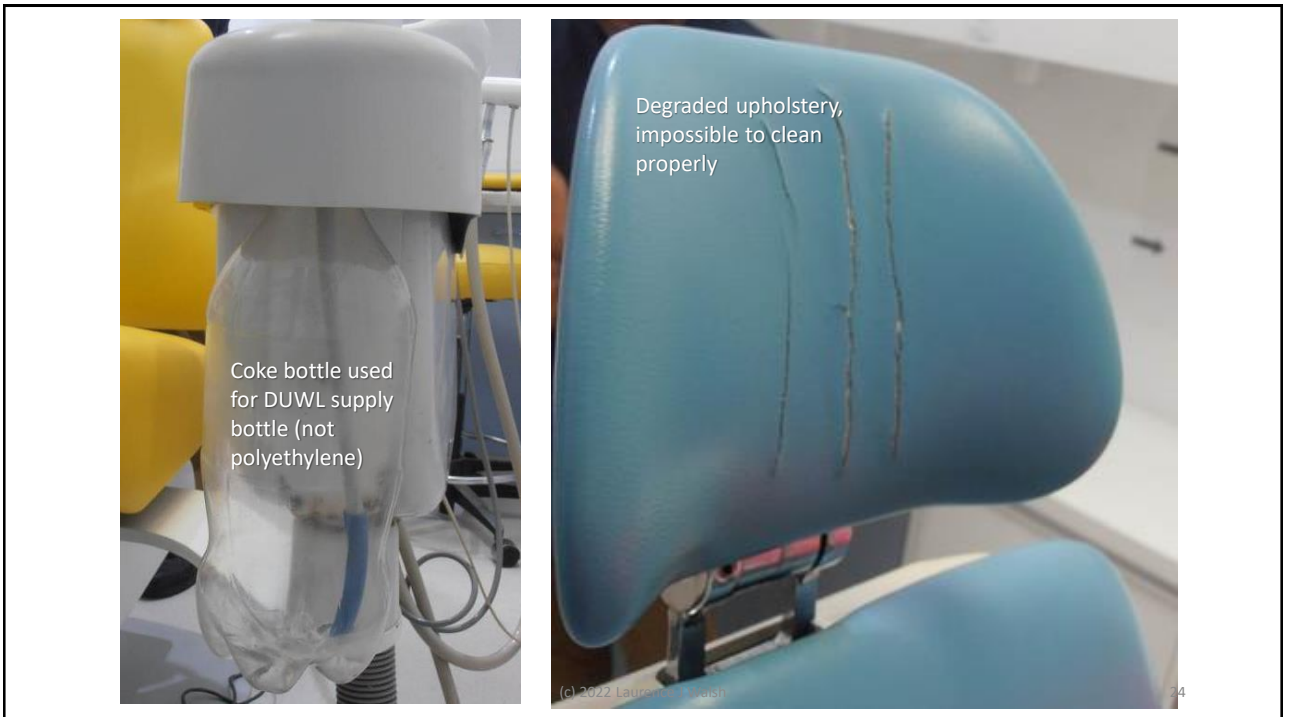
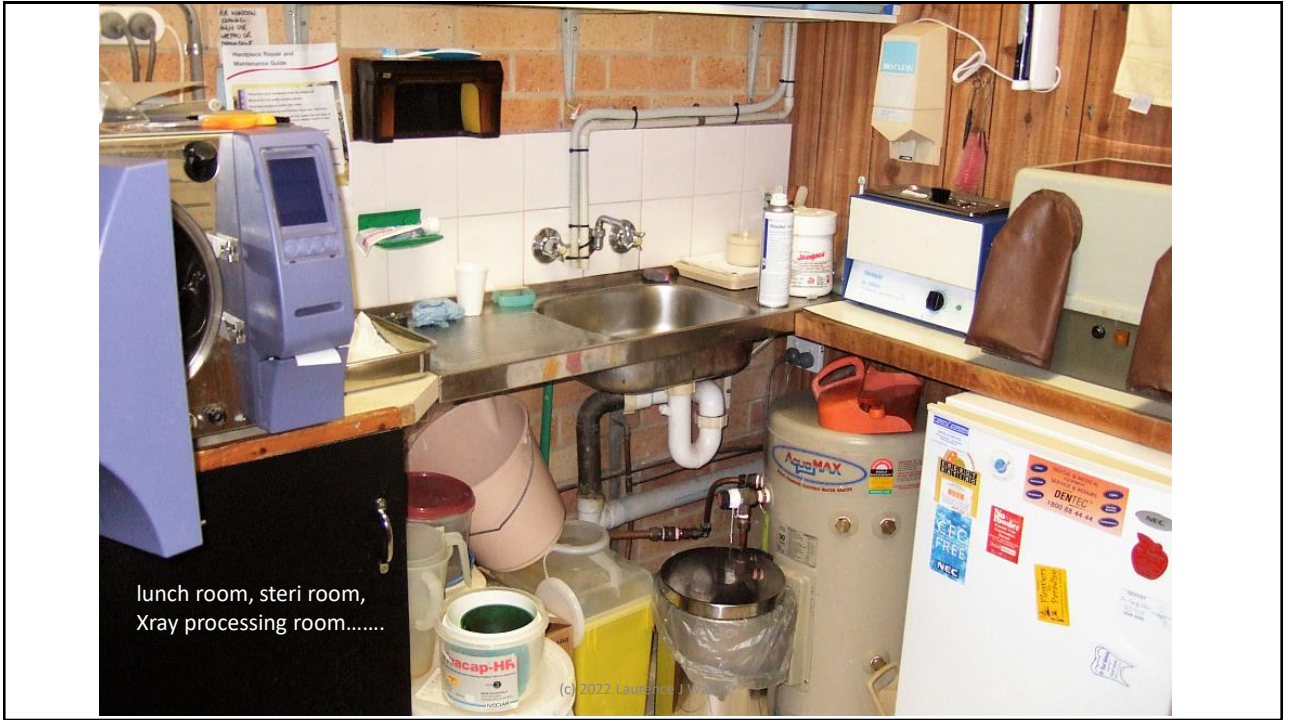
Rusty surgical instruments



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20





Disposables



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25

Re-use of single use items

A medical device labelled with any of the following information or symbol in Figure 5.1 shall be deemed to be a medical device intended only for single use.



DO NOT REUSE



Synonyms for this are:

- Single-use
- Use only once



FIGURE 5.1 INFORMATION AND SYMBOL USED TO DESIGNATE A MEDICAL DEVICE FOR SINGLE USE ONLY

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26

Single use items



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27

Hand endodontic files



Reprocessing hand files is not practicable as they are typically labelled as single-use items. It is both ineffective and unsafe, and likely to result in a sharps injury.

Protocols with proven effectiveness for cleaning rotary nickel titanium files have limited effectiveness in removing bioburden from hand files made from either stainless steel or nickel-titanium alloy and cannot be used. In addition there are concerns regarding staff safety.

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28

Re-used disposable impression trays



29

- Dental staff should always refer to **manufacturer instructions** to determine if a device is single-use.
- If a device **does not have reprocessing (i.e., cleaning and disinfection or sterilization) instructions**, then in the absence of such information it should be considered single-use (i.e., disposable).
- Likewise, if the item is classed by the supplier as a “**consumable**”, then it is considered as disposable.

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30

