Safety tips for dental offices and clinics

By assessing your business procedures and ensuring that your employees are adequately trained, you can create a safer workplace, reduce the risk of losses and help protect your business and your employees.

**Employees**

Do you:

- Enforce the use of personal protection - face shields and latex gloves?
- Provide training on Bloodborne Pathogens exposures and offer a Hepatitis B vaccination?
- Regularly monitor the adequacy of ventilation system to remove waste anesthetic gases?
- Secure compressed gas cylinders, upright, with chains or straps?
- Enforce the use of lead shields to protect employees during radiography operations?
- Provide seating to reduce the repetitive trauma associated with standing for extended periods?

**Customers**

Do you:

- Maintain slip resistant floor surfaces?
- Have adequate and sturdy handrails on all interior and exterior stairs?
- Routinely inspect any toys provided for children in the waiting room?
- Restrict patients to the waiting room when not under treatment?

**Office location**

Do you:

- Have - and use - double cylinder deadlocks on all exterior doors?
- Have adequate electrical systems? Circuit breakers, no use of temporary extension cords in lieu of permanent wiring, fused power strips for multiple electrical connections
- Provide over-temperature controls for autoclaves, sterilizers, and other heat producing equipment so that thermostat failure will not result in hazardous temperatures?
- Have signs posted prohibiting smoking and other sources of ignition in areas of oxygen use?
- Secure compressed gas and oxygen cylinders upright with chains or straps? Is the location of oxygen shut-offs identified for responding firefighters?
- Provide at least U.L. listed 2A:10BC fire extinguisher in areas with anesthetic gases?
- Secure drugs, related equipment, and valuable metals in a locked container?

**Services provided**

Do you:

- Review all advertising to ensure that no misleading statements are included regarding quality of care or costs?
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- Verify that patient records are complete and up-to-date?
- Post signs to remind customers to notify you of any changes in their medical condition, including pregnancy?

For more information, log in to the Risk Control Customer Portal at travelers.com/riskcontrol. (Need help? Read our Registration Quick Guide.) You also can contact your Risk Control consultant or email Ask-Risk-Control@travelers.com.