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Key Messages:

- It is National IPAC Week, October 16-20, 2023. Key resources to support implementation of IPAC best practices in clinical office practice settings are available on Public Health Ontario's website.
- Public Health Units investigate IPAC complaints in clinical office practices. Common issues identified are often related to reprocessing of reusable equipment and instruments.

NEW: National Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Week

This year's theme, "Unmasking the Future", recognizes our emergence from the pandemic with new learnings as we move forward. IPAC week is an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of IPAC best practices in clinical office settings.

Consider adopting these resources from Public Health Ontario into your office practice:

- Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice. This guidance document outlines legislative requirements and best practices. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/B/2013/bp-clinical-office-practice.pdf>
- IPAC Checklist for Clinical Office Practice - Core Elements. This checklist should be used regularly to evaluate the current office practice compared to provincial recommendations.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/c/2018/checklist-clinical-office-core.pdf>

- IPAC Checklist for Clinical Office Practice - Reprocessing of Medical Equipment/Devices. This checklist provides specific direction on reprocessing requirements when re-using medical equipment. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/c/2019/checklist-clinical-office-reprocessing.pdf>

Public Health Ontario has identified the top five practices that put patients and others at risk in clinical office settings. Learn about the risks and Public Health Ontario's recommendations here:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Health-Topics/Infection-Prevention-Control/Clinical-Office-Practice/High-Risk-Practices>

NEW: Common Issues cited in IPAC Complaint Investigations

Public Health Units in Ontario are mandated to receive and investigate IPAC complaints in clinical office settings. Actions can range from recommendations to improve IPAC practices to cessation of specific practices (e.g., use of multi-use equipment). Reprocessing reusable equipment and instruments is often the focus of complaint investigations.

All practices should consider the following:

1. For all multi-use medical equipment, follow the Manufacturer Instructions for Use (MIFU). This includes sterilization instructions and tracking the number of times the equipment can be re-used.
2. Ensure the autoclave is registered under the Medical Devices Active License Listing (MDALL) for use in Canada, <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/licences/medical-devices-active-licence-listing.html>
3. When sterilizing medical instruments, ensure all indicators are checked and logged (time, temperature, pressure, chemical and biological). All indicators should pass prior to using the equipment on the next patient.
4. Label and log sterilization pouches. This will help track and rotate sterilized items and is particularly helpful if there is an indicator failure where items should be removed from use.
5. Ensure all staff responsible for reprocessing medical instruments have received the proper training and education. This includes understanding the MIFUs and consulting best practice guidance. Public Health Ontario offers free online courses:
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Education-and-Events/Online-Learning/IPAC-Courses>

For more information related to Infection Prevention and Control visit

<https://www.peelregion.ca/health/infection-control/>