A Dentist's Checklist for **Evaluating Infection Prevention Solutions**

As dentists continue to serve patients through a global epidemic and beyond, it is critical to ensure no one that comes in and out of the office is exposed to harmful pathogens. Dental teams that implement a series of IP procedures followed by every member of the practice have a clear advantage in preventing infection. These teams need to anticipate what procedures and technologies will enable them to maintain the safest dental environment. Here is a checklist of critical considerations as dental leaders deploy infection prevention measures throughout their practice.

☐ **Think Beyond the Tool Tray:**
Dental procedures already focus on manual cleaning and disinfection of dental tools due to the prevalence of autoclave machines. It's also important, however, to ensure surfaces are cleaned within the office, waiting room, and check-in/-out areas. Effective cleaning with an EPA approved disinfectant of environmental surfaces and patient care equipment is a fundamental piece in breaking the chain of infection.

☐ **Bundle Manual Cleaning and Sterilization:**
The American Journal of Infection Control notes that combining UVC technology with manual cleaning is one of the most effective ways to significantly decrease the pool of harmful pathogens that cause infection. UVC exposure for a specific length of time and intensity increases the effectiveness of a dental office's IP protocol by targeting and destroying pathogens that can potentially harm patients.

☐ **Select a UVC System Specially Designed for Dental Offices:**
Dentists should select infection prevention tools that align with the unique set-up of their practices. Any dental IP solution should provide ultra-fast and effective pathogen-killing power without having to be moved or positioned with each use. And much like a dental office's X-ray machine, look for a system that allows its control to be located outside of the room for the safe operation of the system.

☐ **Demand Ultra-Fast Treatment Time:**
Consider a wall- or ceiling-mounted system that enables rooms to be quickly disinfected between patient visits with little effect on through-put. The UVC dose should be quickly delivered to target life-threatening HAI pathogens and disinfect an entire room with high efficacy. Best-in-class UVC machines can disinfect a room in as little as 2 minutes, minimizing downtime between patient cases.

☐ **Prioritize Ease-of-Use:**
While UVC technology is advanced, operating these systems shouldn't be, especially if you want to ensure all dental staff adheres to your office, local, state, and federal disinfection guidelines. Dentists should choose a UVC system that user-friendly and straightforward to maximize compliance. Look for a system that's design includes remote operation and monitoring, a clear indication of completed disinfection, and one that stores data on the office's overall UVC protocol adherence.

☐ **Consider Surface & Air Disinfection:**
With the CDC's finding that Coronavirus can remain infective for up to 16 hours in respirable-sized aerosols, dental offices need to consider disinfection of not just surfaces, but the air in their facility as well. The right UVC System will address both surface and airborne bioburdens and help keep patients and workers safe in dental offices.

☐ **Ensure Proof of Compliance is Feature:**
A wall-mounted system, uniquely designed for dental offices, should also measure, record, and report the UVC dosage delivered—in real-time—ensuring you have the proof of compliance data needed for potential government reporting and communication to patients. Critical information like date, time, operator, room number, cycle time, and delivered dose is captured to ensure delivery infection preventing UVC doses throughout the space.

Learn more about UVC disinfection and how the RD-Fx UVC System can improve your outpatient surgical center's infection prevention efficacy. The powerful, cloud-based reporting system, uniquely configured for your space by Steriliz experts, provides unrivaled accountability and compliance reporting. Our team can help you determine the right IP solution for your facility and work with you through every step of the process.

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