

MDA Statement on HIV Transmission from Dentist to Patient

As health care providers, dental practitioners have continuously reviewed their infection control practices as a result of professional and public concern for bloodborne infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Dental practitioners in Malaysia know the risks present in their work, especially on the possibility of transmission of blood borne infections from patient to practitioner, practitioner to patient or patient to patient.

It is a requirement by the Ministry of Health Malaysia for dental practitioners to adhere to ***Guidelines on Infection Control in Dental Practice (2007)*** as outlined by the Oral Health Division and Malaysian Dental Council on the standard precautions in infection control and the required practices. Standard precautions are procedure-specific and not patient-specific. This means that the same set of precautions are taken for each type of procedure irrespective of who the patient is, as some patients may be unaware of their status, or cannot be identified by medical history, or possibly will even conceal that they are carriers. Observance to these standard precautions, including prevention of blood contact between dentist and patient, and proper cleaning and sterilization of instruments will adequately prevent the transmission of bloodborne infections.

The Malaysian Dental Association firmly believes, and would like to reassure the public, that dentists in Malaysia have undertaken appropriate training in infection control practices and that there is an extremely minimum risk of transmission of infection from the dentist to any patient being treated, and to our knowledge there are no documented cases in Malaysia of transmission of HIV from a dentist to a patient.