



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

21st December 2012

To: Regional Director of Operations

**Re: HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Decontamination of Reusable Invasive Medical Devices (RIMD) for a Local Decontamination Unit (LDU) (Dental Services)**

Dear Colleague,

### **1. Purpose**

Attached please find the *HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Decontamination of RIMD in local decontamination units (LDU) (dental services)*. The purpose of this document is to set out a standardised approach to decontamination practices in dental services, ensuring decontamination of dental RIMD which are fit for purpose and which will allow healthcare organisations to meet the requirements of the E.C. Medical Devices Directive and the HSE Decontamination Programme. The aim of the Decontamination Programme is to ensure that the Health Service Executive has the appropriate and adequate decontamination systems in place, capable of supporting a high quality and safe service.

### **2. Background**

The National Dental Infection Prevention and Control Committee have been working with the National Advisory Group to develop standards and recommended practices for decontamination of dental RIMD in the local decontamination unit (LDU).

The *HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Decontamination of RIMD in local decontamination units (LDU) (dental services)* support the implementation of the National Standards and provide:

- A framework for the provision of high quality and safe decontamination services for dental RIMD in the LDU.
- A reference point against which continual monitoring and improvement can take place.

The LDU Standards are also in keeping with the regulatory requirements of the Irish Dental Council.

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### 3. Overview

The *HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Decontamination of RIMD in local decontamination units (LDU) (dental services)* is comprised of four parts:

- i) Suitability of decontamination facilities
- ii) Decontamination equipment
- iii) Choice of decontamination process
- iv) Procedures relating to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)

### 4. Implementation

There are twenty-three recommended practices which will support staff in implementation of the standards and serve as the basis for policy and procedure development in local dental decontamination services.

Two national information sessions took place earlier this year (2012) to support the launch and implementation of the LDU Standards.

Implementation of the LDU Standards will be in four phases. The first phase is due to be implemented by the end of the first quarter, 2013. The National Oral Health Office has completed due diligence and can confirm the implementation of this first phase will be absorbed in the costs of the Dental Service budget within each Service Area. Closure of outlying clinic has occurred in some areas however a dental service remains accessible to each network area.

Following implementation of the first phase at the first quarter 2013, the Dental Inspectorate will commence auditing procedures to quality assure the standards are in place.

I would appreciate if you could ensure the following are actioned:

- The *HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Decontamination of RIMD in local decontamination units (dental services)* document is circulated to those with responsibility for relevant areas including Area Managers, Service Area Principal Dental Surgeons, Orthodontists, Oral Surgeons, Quality and Risk Managers, Infection Prevention and Control Personnel and other personnel as appropriate.
- Current policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines governing all elements of service provision relating to decontamination of dental RIMD in LDUs are reviewed and amended, after the first quarter 2013, in light of the *standards and recommended practices*.

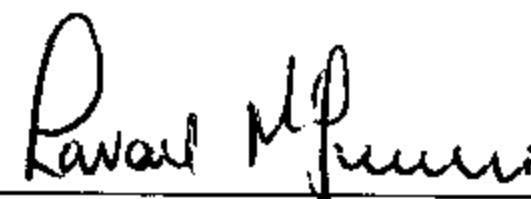
We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many personnel who contributed in any way to this project and look forward to working with you now on the implementation for the *HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Decontamination of RIMD in local decontamination units (dental services)*.

Yours sincerely,



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**Dr Philip Crowley**  
**National Director**  
**Quality & Patient Safety**



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**Laverne McGuinness**  
**National Director**  
**Integrated Services Directorate**  
**Performance & Financial Management**