In the current dental practice environment, dentists are faced with more stringent infection control guidelines imposed by licensing bodies as well as with patients who have a greater awareness of the risks of infectious disease transmission inherent to dental treatment. As a result, dentists must be able to apply complex policies and practices in order to promote a safe and professional treatment environment that not only complies with regulatory bodies and inspires patient confidence but is practical and financially sustainable.

This course will present the core concepts that are the keys to the development of any dental infection prevention and control program. The material, in the form of solutions to frequently-asked questions and concerns submitted by attendees prior to the course, will be presented in an interactive fashion that encourages group participation and problem solving.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to assess their dental practices with respect to principles falling within key infection and prevention categories and to develop a program tailor-made to their own setting. These categories include, but will not be limited to:

- Patient risk assessment or, “I think there is a TB patient in my waiting room”
- Work restriction or, “What to do when your assistant has the flu?”
- Needle stick injury or, “The needle got away from me”.
- Hand hygiene or, “The soap versus hand sanitizer debate”
- Personal protective equipment or, “Are all gloves created equal?”
- Handling and storage of single use items or, “Are my disposables contaminated?”
- Air handling in the operatory or, “Do I need an air purifier?”
- Operatory surfaces or, “Barrier protect or disinfect?”
- Cleaning, sterilization and disinfection or, “Do I really need a type-B sterilizer?”
- Dental waterlines and suction or, “Is it really necessary to treat my water?”

Ms Somerville began her career as a medical technologist in Clinical Microbiology at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and later went on to obtain a BSc in Cell and Molecular Biology (Concordia University) and a Master’s degree in Anatomy and Cell Biology from McGill University.

She resumed her career as a McGill researcher focusing on the epidemiology of respiratory diseases and on laboratory biosafety and was instrumental in the commissioning of the biosafety level 3 containment facility used for tuberculosis research at the MUHC.

In 2003 Ms. Somerville joined the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) department at the Royal Victoria Hospital where she held the dossiers for diverse inpatient and outpatient clinics, units and services. She has been the coordinator of McGill Faculty of Dentistry’s undergraduate and residency infection control program since 2009.

Half-Day Lecture
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

$299 (dentists)
$99 (others)

ODQ CE  4
CERP CE  4