

# Biological Monitor

A QUARTERLY INFECTION CONTROL NEWSLETTER  
FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS  
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## Making Strides Toward Dental Unit Waterline Quality

The one year anniversary of the release of the CDC's Guideline for Infection Control in Dental Healthcare Settings 2003 is quickly approaching. The 2003 guideline signaled the first major stride toward dental unit waterline quality and defined dental worker responsibilities for treatment water quality. Although water quality has been a topic of discussion, inclusion into the guideline will result in the adoption of water quality standards by many states. Several states automatically adopt the CDC guideline as regulation.

With a water quality goal clearly defined, industry and dental health-care providers embark on a quest to develop and implement sys-

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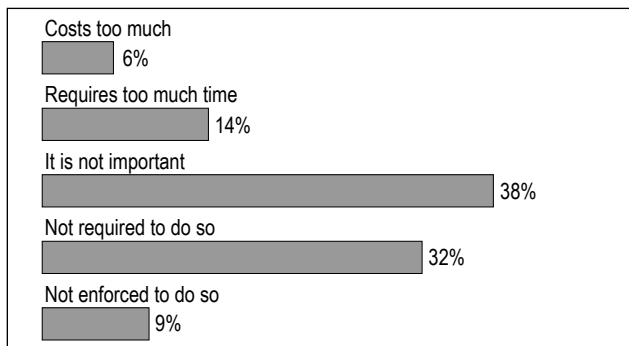


tems and methods to obtain clean water in the most simple, effective and economical approach. Significant strides have been made in the pursuit of dental unit water quality.

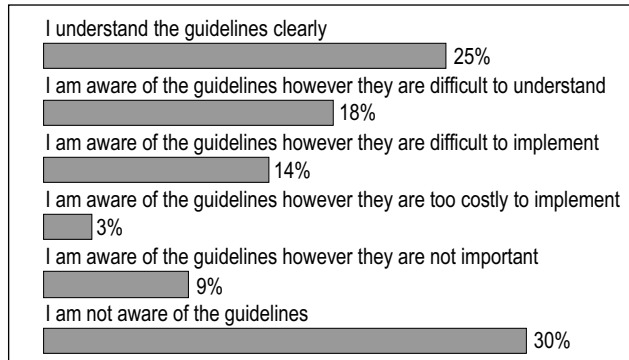
www.DentalTown.com conducted an online poll of registered members in May of this year. The poll contained 20 questions relating to the primary question; Do you disinfect your dental water lines?

The results, although unscientific, provide some indication of strides made in pursuit of the water quality goal. The following survey results are reprinted with permission from a DentalTown.com online Townie poll.

### If you are not disinfecting your waterlines, it is because?

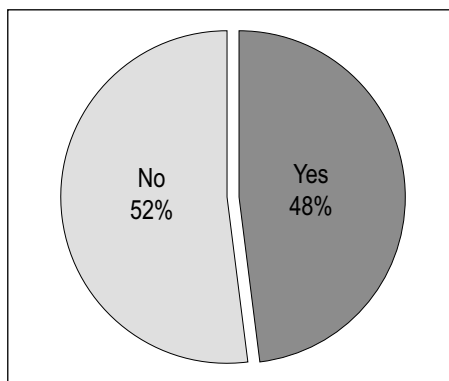


### Are you familiar with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention dental output water guidelines?



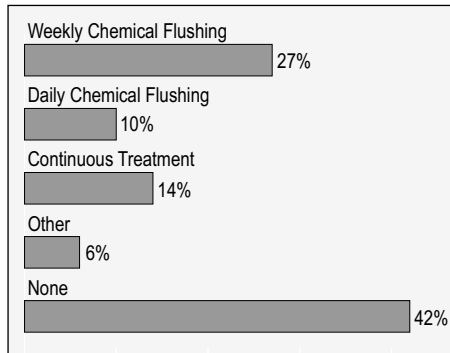
### Do you disinfect your dental water lines?

*48% of 931 respondents indicated they disinfect their dental waterlines.*

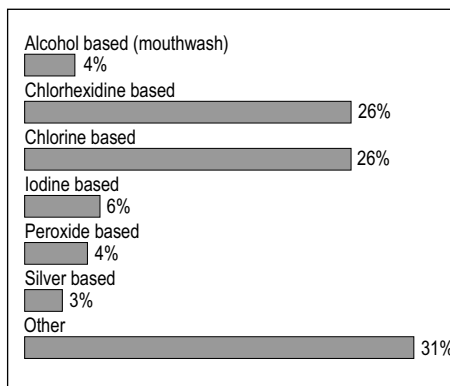


## Water Quality ..con't from p1.

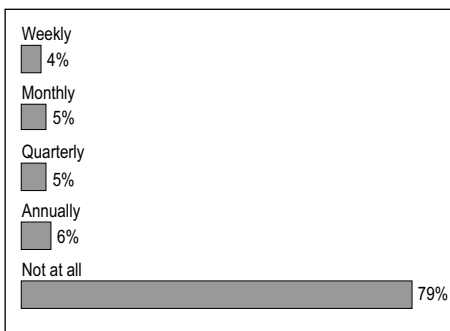
### What method of waterline disinfection do you use?



### If you are using chemical flushing, what type are you using?



### How often do you test your waterlines for bacteria compliance (cfu)?



## Practical Practice Corner

### To Flush or not to Flush is that the Question?

We have been hearing about and reading about dental unit water line (DUWL) safety for quite some time now. Do we understand:

- What the issues are?
- What the day to day maintenance solutions are?
- Where to go from here?

According to an internet poll conducted by Dental Town, 38% of the participants believe that disinfecting the waterlines is not important and 30% are not aware of the guidelines that have been implemented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding dental output water guidelines ([www.dentaltown.com](http://www.dentaltown.com)).

### What Works For You?

Are you aware of the CDC guidelines? Do you have questions or comments? To help

clarify the facts and provide solutions regarding DUWL, we invite all dental staff to contact us with questions, comments, and tips on what is working (or not working) well in your office. For instance, what has been your experience using self-contained water systems, filters, sterile water delivery systems, chemical treatments, or flushing or not flushing the waterlines?

So ask a question or share a tip—remember it's your corner and we look forward to your e-mails and the opportunity to help clear the waters. Send your questions or comments to [customerservice@confirmmonitoring.com](mailto:customerservice@confirmmonitoring.com) or Biological Monitoring Service, PO Box 4758, Englewood CO 80155.

### Practical Practice is Brought to You By...

#### Annamaria Phillips

Annamaria Phillips is the owner of Optbridge, LLC. Nationally known, Annamaria presents seminars and staff training on OSHA compliance, infection controls and communication. Annamaria can be reached at (303) 840-2808.

## DUWL Testing Service Now Available

Regular testing of DUWLs is an important step toward ensuring compliance with the new CDC guidelines. In response to customer requests, Biological Monitoring Service (BMS) is now offering a mail-in dental unit waterline testing service. The service provides microbial counts up to 20,000 CFU/mL and a pass/fail result based on a standard of 500 CFU/mL.



You collect water from each dental unit in a separate test vial. You then pack the sample in the styrofoam mailer with a refrigerant pack and ship it via USPS Express Mail. Upon receipt, BMS processes the samples according to the Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 20th Edn., 1998.

The DUWL testing kit includes a refrigerant pack, collection vials, a styrofoam mailer, and an optional pre-paid Express Mail postage. • A certificate, suitable for framing and display is provided. • Results are available seven days from receipt. • Test failures are immediately phoned to your office. • Complete test results are faxed to your office.

Item #	# of Test Kits	Vials Per Kit	Pricing	Description
90401	1	4	\$95	1 Styrofoam mailer, return postage paid
90404	4	4	\$ 370	4 Styrofoam mailers, return postage paid
90604	4	6	\$ 460	4 Styrofoam mailers, return postage paid