COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This Continuing Dental Education course will contain the following six elements: (1) The responsibility of applying scientifically accepted principles and practices of infection control in the healthcare setting and the implications of overseeing and monitoring dental/medical and ancillary personnel for whom the Professional is responsible; (2) Modes and mechanisms of transmission of pathogenic organisms and strategies for prevention and control; (3) Use of engineering and work practice controls to reduce the opportunity for patient and healthcare worker exposure to potentially infectious materials; (4) Selection and use of barriers and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) for preventing patient and healthcare worker contact with potentially infectious materials; (5) Creation and maintenance of a safe environment for patient care through application of infection control principles and practices for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization; and lastly (6) Prevention and control of infectious and communicable diseases in healthcare workers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this presentation, the participant will be able to:

- Apply current scientifically accepted infection prevention and control principles as appropriate for the specific work environment
- Recognize the professional’s responsibility to adhere to scientifically accepted infection prevention and control practices in the healthcare/dental setting and the consequences of failing to comply
- Describe how pathogenic organisms are spread in healthcare/dental setting
- Identify the factors which influence the outcome of an exposure to pathogenic organisms in healthcare/dental setting
- List strategies for preventing transmission of pathogenic organisms
- Describe how infection control concepts are applied in professional practice
- Define healthcare-associated disease transmission, engineering controls, safe injection practices, and work practice controls
- Describe the circumstances that require the use of barriers and personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent patient or healthcare worker contact with potentially infectious material
- Define cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization
- Differentiate between non-critical, semi-critical, and critical medical devices
- Describe the three levels of disinfection (i.e. low, intermediate, and high)

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- Recognize the importance of the correct application of reprocessing methods for assuring the safety and integrity of patient care equipment in preventing transmission of blood-borne pathogens
- Recognize strategies for, and importance of, effective and appropriate pre-cleaning, chemical disinfection, and sterilization of instruments and medical devices aimed at preventing transmission of blood-borne pathogens
- Identify occupational health strategies for preventing transmission of blood-borne pathogens and other communicable diseases in healthcare workers

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Alessandro GangiDino has served as the Infection Control Chair at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine (CDM) since April, 2015. He currently works in the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department at CDM. Prior to Columbia, Alessandro worked for over a decade on staff as well as a Travel Nurse in several emergency departments throughout the five boroughs of New York. Most recently, he was actively involved in preparing for the site visit at CDM for the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Alessandro has created infection control (IC) policies and procedures at CDM as well as performed IC surveillance programs and performance improvement projects.