

CS 3500 Intraoral Scanner

Does Your Intraoral Scanner Meet Best Practices for Infection Control?

For dentists, the health and safety of their patients is of paramount importance—not only for maintaining a trusting relationship, but also for shielding them from potential sources of cross-contamination and possible infection. As such, proper sterilization is critical when it comes to controlling the cross contamination of bacteria throughout the dental operator. By following best practices for sterilization, dental professionals can reduce the spread of infectious diseases to themselves, patients and practice staff.

Infection Control Guidelines

As intraoral scanners increase in popularity, more questions arise regarding the correct sterilization procedure. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, as released by the American Dental Association (ADA), intraoral scanner tips are a member of the semicritical category, as the tip comes into contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin due to the nature of prepping for restorations and appliances.

The CDC recommends doctors use heat to sterilize semicritical instruments (if they are tolerant to such conditions). If the device—in this case, an intraoral scanner tip—is heat sensitive, CDC processing guidelines require users to use a high-level disinfectant to meet the minimum standard of care. High-level disinfection is defined as immersing the scanner in a sporicidal chemical for a period of 12-90 minutes. It should be noted that, while these chemicals inactivate vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi and viruses, they do not eliminate a high number of bacterial spores.¹

Infection Control





Some Intraoral Scanners Do Not Meet Best Practices

Under these terms, the best-case scenario for doctors is to use an autoclave to sterilize the scanner tip, which comes in contact with the mucous membranes, since the CDC's next option still leaves room for cross contamination. However, some intraoral scanner manufacturers advise against both autoclaving **and** immersion in a disinfecting chemical and, instead, instruct users to wipe the scanner tip down with a cloth that has been immersed in the prepared solution. As the scanner tip is a semicritical instrument, these instructions do not meet even the minimum standard of best practices for infection control—leaving patients vulnerable to infection as a result.

If you are in the market for an intraoral scanner, selecting a model with autoclavable tips will ensure that you are properly able to sterilize the instrument and protect your patients from bacteria and viruses. Some manufacturers feature different tip sizes for patient comfort and can be autoclaved a number of times before they must be replaced.

CS 3500: Designed for Patient Safety and Comfort

Carestream Dental's CS 3500 was designed after obtaining significant feedback from dental professionals. Among many of its innovative features, the CS 3500 intraoral scanner includes disposable tips that can be autoclaved for adherence to the CDC's best practices for infection control. Because restorative and appliance cases introduce the likelihood of bleeding, heat sterilization is critical in eliminating the potential for cross contamination. Doctors can be confident that the CS 3500 protects the health and safety of their patients, and patients will be happy to know that their practitioner chose a scanner with their best interests in mind.

For patient comfort, the scanner tips are available in two sizes: a standard tip for adults and a smaller tapered tip for children and adults with small mouths. This ensures a pleasant experience for the patient and an easier scan for the practice staff.

The CS 3500 also delivers a number of benefits that set it apart from other intraoral scanners on the market. As a truly portable scanner, the CS 3500 allows users to capture high-quality 2D and 3D images. For enhanced convenience, the CS 3500 connects directly to the computer—making it easier to move the scanner from operator to operator. The CS 3500 also requires no powder, once again improving patient experience, and comes with a light guidance system that allows users to focus on their patients' mouths, rather than the monitor.

The CS 3500 can be used as a standalone digital impression solution, or as part of the CS Solutions computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) restorative system. As an open system, files captured with the intraoral scanner can be easily shared with labs for fabrication. And, the CS 3500 can be integrated with any existing equipment that meets system requirements, so it can be implemented without significantly affecting workflow.

When it comes to the health and comfort of patients and dental professionals, Carestream Dental is invested in your practice. For more information on the CS 3500 intraoral scanner, please call **800.944.6365** or visit **carestreamdental.com**.

