

Revolutionizing Dental Practices: Prioritizing Patient Safety and Personalized Care With Innovative Equipment

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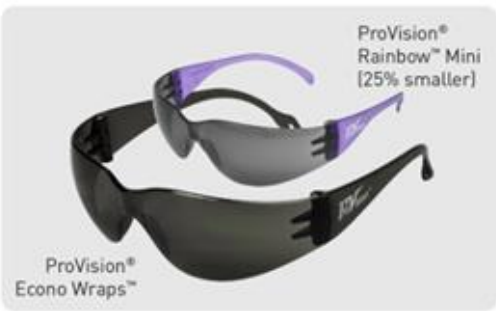
Transforming dental practices involves more than just adapting new techniques — it also requires practitioners to prioritize patient safety and personalized care through innovative equipment. When practitioners approach their work with this holistic approach, they not only improve care outcomes but also contribute to the overall health and well-being of each patient. This article explores the critical role that specialized dental equipment plays in enhancing the patient experience and ensuring dental practices are made safer, more efficient, and more patient-centered.

Q: How does dental equipment influence a patient’s experience and safety?

A: In dental care, the interplay between equipment and patient experience is profound. Every tool and procedure utilized within a dental practice not only shapes the quality of care, but also influences the comfort and safety of the individual in the chair. Among the myriad devices impacting this dynamic relationship, three are pivotal in transforming and elevating the practice: patient eyewear, provider eyewear, and suction backflow protection. These seemingly mundane elements revolutionize the patient’s journey and the practitioner’s workflow, underscoring the significance of prioritizing innovation and safety in dental equipment.

Q: Why is patient eyewear important in dental practices?

A: In our profession, patient safety and eye protection are paramount. It’s crucial to offer a range of designs that cater to individual needs, enhancing the patient experience with safety, comfort, and compliance. For instance, if a patient with long eyelashes leaves the appointment with squished lashes and mascara on their face from ill-fitting eyewear, that can significantly impact their perception of the visit. The same can be said about patients with wide temples. We need to provide eyewear options. Consider including the *Infinity™* eyewear in your selection, as they sit slightly elevated, addressing these issues. Additionally, many of my patients prefer the comfort of *Flexiwrap™* shaded eyewear with flexibility, because it reduces the impact of intense light and, consequently, their anxiety.



Let’s also address the children with specific safety-certified eyewear designed in multicolored *ProVision® Rainbow* mini-options to allow our younger patients a choice of which color to wear for the appointment, allowing participation in the selection.

Q: What standards must safety glasses for dental professionals meet?

A: Dental professionals require safety glasses for a successful career, and in North America, they must be certified by either the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).¹ The eye and face protectors must meet the criteria for impact resistance and carry the CSA certification mark.

Q: What benefits does the ProVision line of eyewear offer dental professionals?

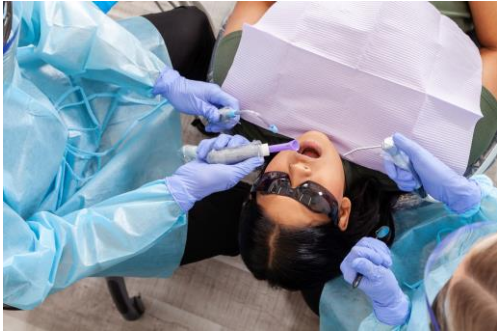
A: Comfort and clarity influence patient care and vision safety. For dental professionals seeking magnification and bifocal options in safety wear, the *ProVision®* collection offers an array of choices. Many dental healthcare practitioners (DHCPs) use customized loupes and a shield when providing patient care, and they need safety glasses for room turnover and operatory maintenance. Chemical exposure could change a DHCP’s life, so many choose to wear *ProVision® Secure® Safety Eyewear with Strap* to protect their vision. This eyewear is touted as being very comfortable, vented, and protective against splashes of maintenance and disinfection solutions.



ProVision® Secure® Safety Eyewear with Strap

Q: How does Safe-Flo™ evacuation equipment enhance patient safety?

A: One of the critical equipment selections that provides DHCPs with peace of mind is the array of Safe-Flo™ evacuation equipment. Research shows that over 20% of the patient population closes their mouth over the suction during a procedure. When a patient’s cheeks or tongue blocks the suction, that exposes patients to the nastiness of what lies in the suction line.^{2, 3, 4, 5} We must consider that 99.9% of those with special needs or a lack of understanding will expose themselves to the potential pathogens in suction lines. Luckily, Safe-Flo™ one-way valves are activated by a pressure drop. Once the suction is occluded, a rubber stopper inside the valve prevents backflow from the suction line from reaching the patient. These single-use practice enhancers are available for the saliva ejector and adapter valves for your favorite HVE tips. As you can appreciate, this equipment is critical for patient safety.



Integrating leading-edge technology in dental equipment, such as patient and provider eyewear and suction backflow protection, significantly enhances the quality and safety of dental care. These tools not only protect and comfort patients, but they also streamline the workflow of dental professionals, ensuring a safer and more efficient practice environment. By prioritizing innovation and safety alongside individualized person-centered care, dental practices can improve the patient experience and care outcomes. This holistic approach promotes a more positive and trustworthy patient-practitioner relationship, ultimately contributing to optimal overall health for each person we treat.

We want to thank Anna Louise Tolan, and we invite you to evaluate our wide range of products designed to protect clinicians, patients, and the practice during dental procedures. For more information, visit palmerohealth.com, call 800-344-6424 or email customerservice@palmerohealth.com.

References

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Author



Anna Louise Tolan
RDH, FADIA

Anna Louise is a passionate and accomplished Master Clinician who ignites the desire for knowledge and excitement in her clients and colleagues to implement change to promote oral health and wellness.

Anna Louise is a trusted advisor and empowering international educator committed to advancing the profession. During her long clinical career, she has gained expertise in person-centred individualized care, providing and presenting on the non-surgical treatment of periodontal and peri-implant disease and conditions. She is a recognized Fellow of the Association of Dental Implant Auxiliaries and a cast member of The RDH View.

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