“Patients appreciate that instruments have been carefully processed for them and their intended procedure.”

DPR: In the dental profession, it is said an ideal infection control compliance program requires a team approach that includes dental personnel, consultants/educators, patients and dental product manufacturers. Tell me about how you feel Hu-Friedy has taken on the role to promote infection control compliance.

MTF: The CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003 provide infection control protocol that is considered standard of care and best practices. With regard to contaminated dental instruments, the CDC stresses that these should be handled carefully to prevent exposure to sharp instruments that can cause a percutaneous injury. It is recommended to use an “appropriate container” to minimize exposure potential during all phases of instrument processing. Hu-Friedy’s Instrument Management System (IMS) minimizes risks of injury to those who handle contaminated instruments and helps the end user follow recommended dental infection control protocol.

DPR: Would you explain a little about the design and other features that make Hu-Friedy’s Infinity Series Cassette an asset for infection control compliance and the prevention of disease transmission?

MTF: The evolution of dental cassettes is a prime example of this. Specifically, the new Infinity Series Cassettes provide a more optimal environment for cleaning and sterilization. Increased open area of the cassette along with the reduced instrument contact from the rails allows for better access to the hard-to-reach areas of the instruments during cleaning and sterilization. Secondly, design evolutions incorporated an improved rail system that holds instruments securely in place yet has minimal contact with instruments. This allows for more effective instrument washing and greater access to all instrument surfaces.

DPR: How have dental cassettes impacted patient care?

MTF: With a multitude of highly visible breaches of infection control in the media in the last several years, patients may experience apprehension and concern about infection control policies within their personal dental office. Patients appreciate that instruments have been carefully processed for them and their intended procedure. A cassette on a bracket table that is unwrapped immediately prior to patient care offers comfort, confidence and an atmosphere of professionalism to the dental patient. It exhibits that infection control is a high priority for a dental practice in both perception and reality.

In conclusion, I’d like to stress the goal of ensuring a safe dental visit for both patients and dental personnel. Through research and development of infection control products and collaboration with dental personnel, manufacturers maintain a major role in infection control compliance and the prevention of disease transmission in the dental setting. The evolution of dental cassettes is a prime example of a manufacturer responding to the needs of those who handle contaminated dental instruments. The IMS Infinity Series Cassette design has been updated to support the next level in professionalism, cleaning capacity, ease of use and optimal patient care.