



## Oasis introduces instrument tracking module

BY JOSEPH ALLBEURY

Increasingly onerous infection control regulations are heightening the requirements for dental practices to document the sterilization process. This has given rise to systems of instrument tracking whereby it is possible, literally years after the fact, to prove that the instruments used on a specific patient on any given day were sterilised beforehand.

While it is possible for practices to develop their own documentation, there are several systems on the market that make the task easier. These include both manual and standalone electronic solutions that can be relatively easily implemented into the daily practice routine.

The latest technological solution to come onto the market is an add-on module to Oasis practice management software. The new software solution is available as an option on Oasis Enterprise Version 8.2E. The system uses barcoding to track instruments through the practice and as a result, there is also an additional cost to purchase the barcode scanner(s).

Dr Nischal Singh's Sydenham Dental Group, aptly located in the Melbourne suburb of Sydenham, has been using Oasis since 1995 and was an early adopter of the new instrument tracking module.

"Dr Singh looked at the various options for instrument tracking on the market," said Samantha Smith, a dental assistant at the practice who looks after sterilisation. "We particularly liked the Oasis instrument tracking module because it is an integral part of Oasis and not another product to worry about. Another reason was that it is very easy to use and hasn't added much time to our daily routine."

The Oasis instrument tracking module is used to initially generate an A4 page of standard Avery labels showing the date, time and cycle no of the sterilisation cycle together with the ID of the staff member responsible. Two bar code labels are printed for each pack. One label is attached to the instrument pack and the second label remains on the sheet.

The packs can be sterilised with the labels attached and the autoclave's printed tape showing temperature and time duration is attached to the A4 sheet with the remaining duplicate labels. The sterilised instrument packs are stored ready for use in the surgery.



Figure 1. The Oasis Instrument Tracking module generates the barcodes automatically and prints on a regular laser printer.



Figure 2. Bagged instruments following sterilization.



Figure 3. The tracking labels are attached to each individual bag from the autoclave (optionally, the labels can also be placed prior to autoclaving).



Figure 4. The duplicate label remains on the sheet and the printout from the autoclave is attached to this to correlate the steri cycle with the tracking barcodes.



Figure 5. A typical tray set-up in the surgery with barcodes attached.



Figure 6. At time of use, the barcode is scanned in the surgery. The barcoded information then appears in the patient's record in Oasis.

The A4 page is later scanned into the computer and digitally archived. As packs are used for patients, the bar code label is scanned with a bar code reader located chairside and the staff member's name, date, time, cycle no and user ID of when the pack was autoclaved is recorded in the patient's clinical notes in Oasis.

The autoclave is regularly checked and calibrated and the sterilised instrument packs are also regularly checked for their shelf life.

"The Oasis instrument tracking module is proving to be an excellent solution to

the growing need for an auditable record correlating instrument sterilisation with individual patients," said Dr Singh. "We've been able to integrate it into the practice's routine easily and the staff have had no problem understanding how to use it and why we need it.

"It also provides peace of mind that if there is ever a need in the future to provide proof of sterilisation, the Oasis instrument tracking module will be able to deliver it."

For more information, contact Oasis Software on (03) 9873-1133.