

June 2012: The ADA has updated their

Statement on Dental Unit Waterlines

In 2012, a case report was published concerning an 82-year-old otherwise healthy woman who developed Legionnaire's disease after a dental visit. The current statement updates the 2004

ADA statement on dental unit waterlines to recognize this case report.

Water Quality Improvement: Dental unit water systems designed for general dental practice must be regularly maintained in order to deliver water of an optimal microbiologic quality.... Dental unit water that remains untreated or unfiltered is unlikely to meet drinking water standards, <500 CFU/mL, therefore, one or more commercial devices and procedures designed to improve the quality of water should be employed.

Water Quality Monitoring: It is important that waterline treatment schedules include water quality monitoring.

Delivery of Sterile Surgical Irrigation: Sterile solutions such as sterile saline or sterile water should be used as a coolant/irrigation in the performance of oral surgical procedures. Conventional dental units cannot reliably deliver sterile water. Delivery devices (e.g., bulb syringe or sterile, single-use disposable products) should be used to deliver sterile water.

In summary, the Council recommends dissemination of this information to dentists as part of the ADA's ongoing service to the profession and the public.

Source: HYPERLINK "http://ada.org/1856.aspx" <http://ada.org/1856.aspx> (edited for space).