

## LASER RISK ASSESSMENT OPERATIONAL CHECKLIST

### Before the procedure

- Make sure that only persons who need to be there and who are sufficiently trained are present.
- Make sure any windows in the laser procedure room are covered and the laser use area is isolated from other areas of the rooms by screens or barriers.
- Make sure the warning sign is present and that access to the operatory is restricted.
- The person using the laser has removed all unnecessary reflective items from the area in which the beam will be located to avoid unwanted reflections/stray radiation. This includes shiny medical instruments, jewelry, watches, plastic ID card, etc.
- Ensure that there are sufficient pairs of protective eyewear available for dentist, technicians, and patients and that each pair is the correct type with regards to the laser wavelength.
- Airborne contaminant control systems (local exhaust suction, etc.) must be operational.

### During the procedure

- Everybody present who has a reasonable likelihood of being exposed to laser radiation must wear protective eyewear. Keep protective eyewear on during the entire process. This includes the patient being treated especially if the treatment area is near his/her face.
- The beam must be carefully controlled at all times.***
- Never leave a laser operating and unattended in an unsafe condition.
- Laser firing foot pedals and finger switches must be separate from any similar switches to avoid confusion.
- Keep in mind that the most dangerous lasers are the invisible beam lasers, particularly near infrared lasers.** Use a high degree of caution when operating these types of lasers.

### After the procedure

- Keep protective eyewear on until the laser system is off or placed into a safe mode (standby).
- Remove any temporary warning signs and lift restricted access to operatory.
- Always store the protective eyewear near the lasers for which it is worn such that it will not get lost, scratched, or broken. Keep the eyewear in protective cases, if possible, in a clean and dry location.

*This document is offered as an example and is in addition to the health and safety guidelines within your surgery.  
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*Source: University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio*