**2F6**

Documented Quality Assurance (QA) System for radiation equipment in place

QA criteria will depend upon whether the practices radiographic system is either digital or film based. Criteria to be documented should be listed as per the following

**QA – Film based**

1 Inventory of radiation equipment

2 Automatic developer cleaning protocol and schedule

3 automatic developer light check (“coin test”)

4 Developer Tests (Step wedge)

5 record of fixer/developer changes

6 record of film stock, date of purchase, type of film, expiry date

7 record of visual inspection of equipment as per example

**QA - Phosphor plates or solid state sensors**

1 Inventory of radiation equipment

2 Regular documented inspection of the plates or sensors

3 Record of visual inspection of equipment as per example

This is the example you could use for visual inspection of equipment

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* |
| Cables |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| buttons |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| arm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| X-ray head |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Control box |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* |
| Cables |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| buttons |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| arm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| X-ray head |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Control box |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* | *date* |
| Cables |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| buttons |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| arm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| X-ray head |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Control box |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

A protocol must be in place to regularly check x-ray machines and to document this in a log. The condition of the equipment should be assessed – cables, buttons, supporting arm and x-ray head, and the control box – to ensure that these components are in good working order. It would seem reasonable for the dentist working in each surgery to take ownership of this task as they will be using the equipment on a daily basis. The frequency of the checks will depend on the number of radiographs being taken but certainly no less than every six months.