

## Instrument Assessment Checklist

Your patients' oral health is your #1 priority. Keeping your instruments "healthy" is just as important. Instruments that are in poor condition compromise patient comfort and safety. Plus, you have to work harder to achieve optimal clinical outcomes.

### **Step 1:** Gather Questionable Instruments:

Consider how long you have had this instrument, whether it's still in use, and if it's performing at an optimal level.

**Step 2:** Check ALL for the Following (any instruments with these or other compromising conditions should be removed from service):

- Bent/broken/misshapen working end
- Corrosion/pitting/rust/discoloration
- Dull cutting edge or point
- Excessive build-up of residue
- Loose joints
- Scratched surface
- Faded markings

### **Diagnostic Instruments:**

- Scratched mirrors
- Faded probe markings
- Dull or bent explorers
- Bent dressing plier tips
- Over-compressed dressing pliers
- Corrosion

### **Scalers & Curettes**

- Retipped instruments
- Dull/chipped cutting edge or point
- Broken or bent tips
- Thin/worn-out blades
- Pointed curettes

### **Ultrasonic Scaling**

- Worn/bent tips
- Warped and/or separated stacks
- Cracked o-ring seals or grips
- Water leaking from handle
- Bent or distended water delivery tube

