

IOWA DENTAL BOARD RENEWAL NEWS

JULY 2008

Outsourcing of Dental Prosthesis

In February 2008, an investigative report in Ohio raised numerous concerns about the outsourcing of dental prosthesis to foreign countries after finding that some of the products contained harmful amounts of lead. The report stemmed from the case of a 73-year-old woman who experienced severe problems shortly after she received a new dental bridge. The woman experienced significant complications following the bridge placement, including local reactions and infections that ultimately led to the removal of the bridge. The patient became concerned after she learned that her dental bridge was made in China. The bridge was sent to a lab for testing where it was discovered that it contained lead, 160 parts per million. As a follow up to this patient's case, an Ohio television station investigated similar products made in Chinese dental labs and discovered a crown that tested positive for lead.

In 2005, the ADA House of Delegates passed a resolution encouraging advance notice to dental providers of outsourcing, rather than post-fabrication notification through labeling. The resolution specifically calls for a subcontracting dental laboratory to notify the dentist in advance when components, materials, or prosthesis indicated in the dentist's prescription are to be manufactured or provided either partially or entirely by a foreign dental laboratory.

The Iowa Dental Board would like to make you aware of this issue and encourage all Iowa dentists to ensure they know the source and materials of all dental prosthesis used for patients in their office. To assist you, the board has placed a sample "Laboratory Prescription and Point of Origin Form" on their website. The form may be downloaded from the board's website www.dentalboard.iowa.gov and used to help you document the point of origin of and materials used in any dental lab prosthesis you give to your patients.

Corporate Practice of Dentistry

While many dentists continue to practice dentistry in Iowa as sole practitioners or in small partnerships, other dentists are employed by and practicing dentistry within a corporate organization. Questions regularly arise as to the professional responsibilities of those dentists, who sometimes assume that the corpo-

ration, rather than the individual licensee, is responsible for compliance with certain laws governing the practice of dentistry. The law in Iowa allows licensed dentists to practice dentistry as employees of corporations, so long as the dentist retains "dominion and control" over the professional practice. Accordingly,

every dentist employed by a corporation should be aware that the dentist, not the corporation, is fully responsible for compliance with Iowa laws governing issues such as treatment planning, quality of care, requirements for infection control, supervision of auxiliary personnel, registration and licensure of auxiliary personnel, record keeping, billing, and all other matters pertaining to the practice of dentistry.

Legal Practice in Iowa

Please take the time to review the status of staff in your dental office to make certain that each and every dentist, hygienist, and assistant has a license or registration and a current renewal to practice. Those under trainee status must have their authorization letter from the board reflecting an expiration date. The license or registration along with a current renewal must be clearly displayed at each permanent practice location. A dentist who holds a permit to administer deep sedation/general anesthesia or conscious sedation, or a dental hygienist who holds a permit to administer local anesthesia, must also prominently display the permit and the current renewal at each permanent practice location. The board's web site has a link with a list of all current dental assistants registered to practice in Iowa. If you have any questions, please contact the board office.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Sedation of Dental Patients

The Iowa Dental Board would like to remind dentists that you must hold a conscious (moderate) sedation permit or deep sedation permit if you plan to sedate your patients. For reference, moderate or conscious sedation is defined as “a drug-induced depression of consciousness, either by enteral or parenteral means, during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patient’s airway and spon-

taneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.” If you prescribe oral medication that results in sedation you must hold a conscious sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia permit issued by the Iowa Dental Board.

If you are using oral medication for antianxiety purposes and the use results in minimal sedation only, a permit is not required. “Antianxiety premedication” is the prescription/ administration of pharmacologic substances for the relief

of anxiety and apprehension which does not result in a depressed level of consciousness. Minimal sedation means the patient’s ability to independently and continuously maintain an airway and respond normally to tactile stimulation and verbal command. Although cognitive function and coordination may be modestly impaired, ventilator and cardiovascular functions are unaffected. A dentist using nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia for minimal sedation also does NOT need a permit.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Reminder to please keep the Iowa Dental Board up to date with your current home and work address. Please remind those you work with to send change of address notices in writing to the Iowa Dental Board office at 400 SW 8th Street, Ste D, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 or fax to the board office at 515-281-7969.

OSHA & Dental Offices

The Iowa Dental Board requires compliance with the standards set by OSHA and the CDC. Did you know that the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) office provides consultation services free of charge? One of the goals of the IOSHA office is to reduce the incidence of injury or illness to workers by enhancing ability to identify

and control safety and health hazards. Employers can learn about potential hazards at their worksites and improve their occupational safety and health management systems by using the **free** consultation services. This program is completely separate from the IOSH Enforcement staff, as such no citations are issued or penalties proposed, and it is **confidential**. As a condition of using

their services, employers must agree to fix any serious hazards that may be found.

If your office is concerned about compliance with OSHA requirements, consider requesting a site visit from OSHA Consultation. You can visit their website at www.iowaworkforce.org and click on Labor Services and IOSH Consultation and Education.

Xrays & Dentistry

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Bureau of Radiological Health is responsible for the licensing and registration of all x-ray machines in the state of Iowa. The Iowa Dental Board requires dentists to comply with IDPH rules related to the use of x-rays. IDPH rules are designed to protect operators of x-ray equipment and patients from excessive exposure to radiation. IDPH rules related to patient exposure to x-rays state that

Individuals shall not be exposed to the useful beam unless (1) the radiation exposure occurs in the context of a previously established professional relationship between a licensed practitioner of the healing arts...and a patient, which includes a physical examination of the patient unless such examination is not clinically indicated; and (2) such practitioner issues a written order for the radiation exposure. The written order shall

be issued prior to the exposure unless the exposure results from care provided in an emergency or surgery setting. A verbal order may be issued provided the licensed practitioner is supervising the procedure and the order is documented in the patient’s record after the procedure is completed. [641 IAC 41.1(3)“a”(7)]

The board is also responsible for setting standards for examination and registration of dental assistants who take x-rays under the supervision of a licensed dentist. Dental assistants who participate in dental radiography must hold a separate “qualification” from the board to take, expose, or develop dental x-rays. Registered dental assistants with the radiology qualification will have the words “Added qualification: dental radiography” on the dental assistant registration renewal card.