



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July 2023, Vol. 69, No. 7



Dr. "Anna" Bettios

Letter from the DC Dental Society President Ioana "Anna" Bettios, DDS, MS, FACP, FICD, FACD

Dear Colleagues,

I hope all are enjoying the summer with your families and taking some much-needed time off to recharge in wonderful places around the country.

Our overarching goal for this year when the Board of Directors meets again in September is to review and update our strategic plan and continue to move forward our strategic priorities that were revamped in 2021. A key initiative is to advocate on behalf of members, particularly before the Board of Dentistry and the DC Council. We understand there is an ongoing shortage of dental hygienists and dental assistants, causing many DC dentists to struggle to find qualified dental staff. That is why we are advocating for changes to DC laws and regulations to make it easier for dental professionals to come to work in DC.

DCDS is advocating for a repeal of the requirement that all Level I dental assistants must register with the Board of Dentistry. This requirement puts DC dental practices at a disadvantage with practices in Maryland and Virginia, where only dental assistants who perform advanced functions are required to register.

DCDS believes that DC should enter reciprocal licensing agreements with Maryland and Virginia to expedite the process of putting qualified dental professionals to work in DC that are licensed in our neighboring states.

DCDS has asked the Board of Dentistry to refrain from imposing financial penalties on any unregistered dental assistants currently working in DC and the dental practices who employ them. We were clear in our submission that we agree that dental assistants and practices need to be in compliance with DC regulations, but we requested the Board of Dentistry to grant a period of time

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Cover photo: DCDS Members Dr. Stan Shulman and Dr. Sally Cram represented the DC Dental Society Foundation at FH Faunerooy Community Enrichment Center’s Juneteenth event.

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DCDS calls for reforms to expand access to staff and streamline licensing process at DC Council oversight hearing

In testimony before a June 8 Oversight Hearing on the Board of Dentistry held by the DC Council Committee on Health, DC Dental Society Executive Director Kurt Gallagher offered a number of recommendations to increase the availability of dental staff in DC. In the testimony, he stated “One of the biggest challenges facing dental practices remains the ability to secure staffing. DC has in place statutes, regulations and a fee structure that discourages potential dental care workers from choosing the District as their place of employment.” Key recommendations included:

- Repealing the requirement that all Level I dental assistants must register with the Board of Dentistry, which puts DC dental practices at a disadvantage with practices in Maryland and Virginia, where only dental assistants who perform advanced functions are required to register.
- DC should enter reciprocal licensing agreements with Maryland and Virginia to expedite the process of putting qualified dental professionals to work in DC that are licensed in our neighboring states.
- Asking the Board of Dentistry to refrain from imposing financial penalties on any unregistered dental assistants currently working in DC and the dental practices who employ them for a period of one year so that unregistered dental assistants can register without penalty.
- Reducing DC licensing and registration fees, which overall are higher in DC than in Maryland and Virginia, particularly when including the cost of a criminal background check and considering that the equivalent of Level I dental assistants are not required to register in Maryland or Virginia.
- The Board of Dentistry can improve communication with applicants by providing a comprehensive list of deficiencies with an application that are identified upon review.
- The Board of Dentistry should regularly report meaningful statistics on licensing trends.

The [full text of the testimony](#) is available for download from the DCDS website.

DC Board of Dentistry moves to create expanded function dental assistant category, adopting DCDS recommendations

The DC Board of Dentistry has proposed rules to create a Level III Dental assistant authorized to perform coronal polishing, place pit and fissure sealants, and conduct glucose testing. The authorization for certified dental assistants to perform these expanded functions would result in implementation of recommendations offered by the DC Dental Society in 2022. DCDS submitted comments in support of the proposal to authorize the expanded functions for certified dental assistants.

DCDS comments also provided practical perspective on two proposed additions to the list of procedures that dentists would no longer be permitted to delegate if adopted: placement of a liquid dam and whitening or bleaching (internal, laser or high-intensity). The DCDS letter noted that dental hygienists and dental assistants can be trained to safely place a liquid dam and administer whitening or bleaching that is not internal under the direct supervision of a dentist.

DCDS will share information on the regulations when finalized.

DCDS Member Happenings!

DCDS member Paul Cohen performed June 17 at Old Angler's Inn in Potomac, MD. Dr. Cohen is one-half of classic rock duo, Munford & Cohen, also featuring Greg Munford. The duo's musical roots include graduate music study and 50+ years playing on stage and in the studio.

Catch their next performance from 5 to 7 PM July 14 at Hank Dietle's Tavern in Rockville.



Share your trips, activities, achievements with us! Send descriptions, along with photos, to info@dcdental.org and you may see them in an upcoming newsletter issue.



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Letter from the President—Continued from Page 1

for all practices to ensure compliance and avoid hefty fines. This remains an ongoing request before the Board of Dentistry. The [current DC Municipal Regulations for Dental Assistants](#) are available on the DC Health website.

DCDS has called for a reduction in DC licensing and registration fees. Overall registration fees for dental hygienists and dental assistants are significantly higher in DC than in our neighboring states, particularly when including the cost of a criminal background check and considering that the equivalent of Level I dental assistants are not required to register in Maryland or Virginia.

We testified at an oversight hearing conducted by the DC Council Committee on Health on the Board of Dentistry on June 8 where we highlighted the issues noted above along with other ([read testimony](#)). We will continue our strategic priority to advocate for dental providers to stop the loss of dental staff to neighboring states. Several DCDS board and committee members, along with our Executive Director, provided public comments during the Board of Dentistry meeting on June 19 about the ongoing challenges in securing dental staff. More dental assisting training programs are needed in the DC area, as well as more outreach to local high schools to encourage students to apply for dental assisting and hygiene programs. The Board of Dentistry also suggested that dental practices submit a [90 Day Supervised Practice Form for Dental Assistants](#) when an assistant applies to register. If approved by the Board of Dentistry, this form will allow the assistant to practice for up to 90 days while the application is under review.

In addition, we have a strategic goal to grow the number of dentists who are members of our society. Particularly when it comes to advocacy, there is strength in numbers.

As discussed during our last DCDS board of directors meeting, as a Society we already provide many programs that support the success of our members in their careers, including with professional educational and social events, but we also need to programs diversify and meet the needs and wants of our new and mid-career dentists to continue to attract and retain members.

We are honored that several members have expressed an interest in serving on committees. A roster of recommendations is being sent to the board for review and vote prior to announcing the appointments. We still have a few of positions available on the Membership and Social Media Committees. We encourage members with creative and innovative ideas

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Letter from the President—Continued on Page 5

Letter from the President—Continued from Page 4

to come forward and assist. I want to thank Dr. Austin Harbison for his dedication to creating and posting great social media updates with the help of DCDS staff this past year. With the support of more volunteers, we hope to reach our members with more social events, public policy updates, and educational programs.

The June happy hour at Lia's Restaurant provided a social and networking opportunity for a number of members, and the Membership Committee is working to organize more social events, including an end of year get-together. The Membership Committee continues to reach out to non-members or lapsed members with the focus on achieving membership goals. Members can support our growth goals, as we are all our best ambassador to fellow dentists in our community on the professional and educational benefits of organized dentistry, and we can invite a non-member to one of our events to motivate them to join.

I would like to thank Dr. Israel Puterman for delivering an encore presentation of his February lecture on "The Trials and Tribulations of Digital Implant Surgery." A recording of the lecture is now available. When we return with our monthly CE meetings on Thursday, September 14, we will hear a presentation by Dr. Christopher Pescatore on "Digital Dentistry Utilization in Today's Dental Practice." This is a virtual presentation and members will also vote on the [proposed bylaws changes](#) during the business meeting, held prior to the CE program.

Have fun this summer and I hope you all can take some time off from your busy dental practice with your families! I look forward to seeing all at our next CE and Business meeting.

Very sincerely,

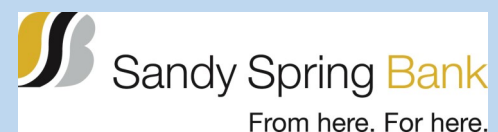
Dr. "Anna" Bettios, DDS, MS, FICD, FACD, FACP
DCDS President 2022-2023

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Upcoming Fall 2023 Continuing Education Presentations

Monthly business meeting begins at 5:45 p.m. Educational session begins at approximately 6:00 p.m.
[Visit the DCDS website](#) for course information, speaker bios, fees and cancellation policy.

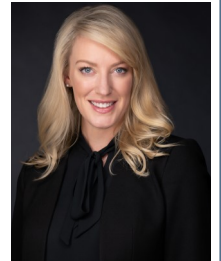
About DCDS Speakers

Your DC Dental Society has developed a continuing education program that features leading experts in dental care whether they practice across the country or down the street. The inclusion of local presenters on the program for DCDS monthly meetings is intended to foster collegiality and support our local community. DCDS does not endorse one specialist over another, but celebrates D.C. talent.



Thursday, September 14th
Digital Dentistry Update
Virtual Only
CE Credits Offered: 2.0
Presenter: Dr. Christopher Pescatore

Tuesday, October 10th
Biomimetic Dentistry
In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.0 CE Credits
Presenter: Dr. Amelia Orta



Tuesday, November 14th
Risk Management
In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.0
Presenter: Andrew Gerner,
CPF, R.K. Tongue

Tuesday, December 5th
Fit Body. Calm Mind. Inspired Practice.
In Person
CE Credits Offered: 2.0
Presenter: Dr. Uche Odiatu



[Register Here](#)

Continuing Education Disclaimer: The District of Columbia Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. It is the responsibility of each participant to verify the CE requirements of his or her licensing or regulatory agency and to contact them with any questions regarding licensing. The DC Dental Society designates the above presentations for the number of CE credits listed.

Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the **Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition** at ADA.org/CERP.

ADA CERP® | Continuing Education Recognition Program

DCDS Proposed Bylaws Amendments

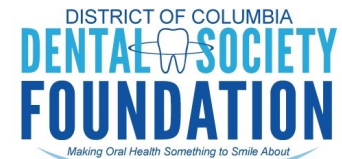
DCDS proposed bylaws amendments are scheduled for a membership vote during the September 14 business meeting before the continuing education presentation. The [proposed bylaws amendments](#) will:

- Affirm the right of members to participate in elections via electronic ballot, including votes on future bylaws amendments.
- Grant the board of directors the flexibility to establish new committees, or disband them, to enable an agile organizational structure that can better meet member needs.
- Specify that elected officers and board members will be announced at the last meeting of the fiscal year. Officers shall assume the responsibilities of their respective offices on January 1st of the following year.
- Affirm that the membership may conduct business via an electronic meeting.
- Specify that the Annual Awards Meeting will be held as the first meeting of the year.

DC DENTAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

A Joy to Serve

“It just brings a joy to the heart to serve and give expecting nothing in return and the gratefulness of the patients is infectious.” Dr. Rodney Savoia



Feel the joy. Sign up for DC Dental Cares, the DCDS Foundation’s pro bono program today,

This program is win-win-win: for our community, for the individuals who receive dental procedures that would not otherwise be possible due to costs, and for the DCDS volunteer who gains that warm feeling that comes from doing good.

Patients are fully vetted for need by our partner, the Catholic Charities Healthcare Network (CCHCN), and the treating dentist sets the level of care provided. You can treat one person a year or several a month, all while in the comfort of your own office.

DC Dental Cares Sign Up Form

DCDS and ADA Help Dentists Fulfill New DEA Education Requirement

DEA requires 8 hours of training on safely prescribing controlled substances

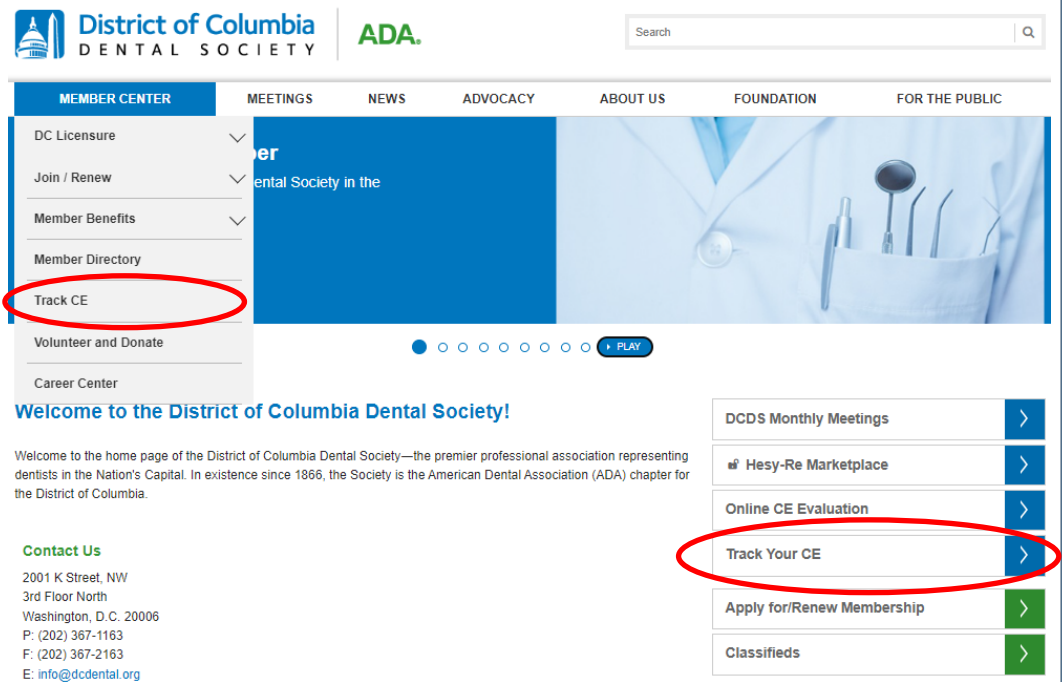
DCDS has offered a number of courses on opioids in recent years that may count towards satisfying the new, one-time training requirement from the DEA. Follow the step-by-step guide below to access your DCDS/ADA course transcript to identify all courses you have completed that may be applicable.

Recent DCDS courses include:

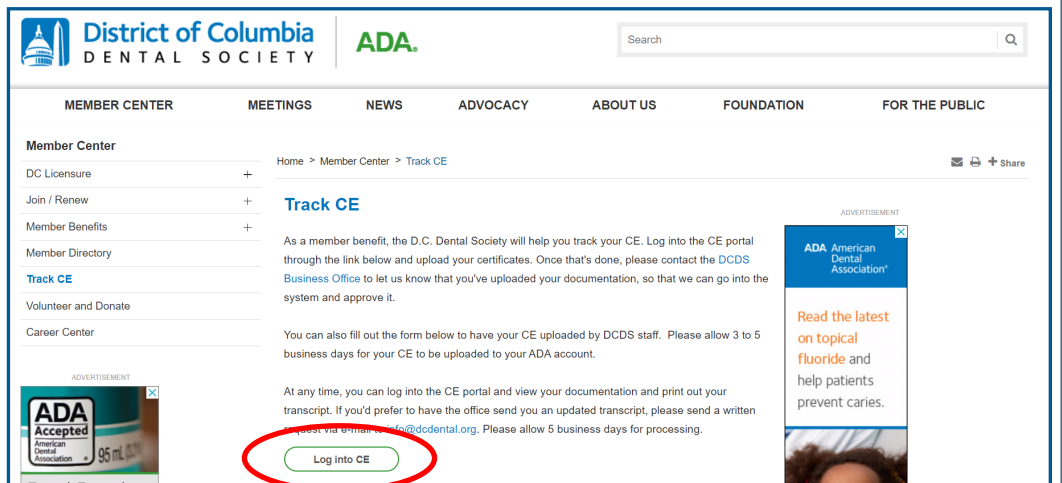
- Dr. Tom Viola, “Top of the Heap” Frequently Prescribed Medications and Clinical Dental Considerations” (2.5 CE Hours; May 2020)
- Dr. Raymond Dionne, “Implementing Best Practices for Acute Dental Pain to Optimize Analgesia and Minimize Substance Abuse” (2.0 CE Hours; Spring & Fall Symposium for Licensure)
- Dr. Ernie Luce, “Opioids and Analgesic Prescribing for the Dentist” (2.0 CE Hours; Spring Symposium for Licensure)

How to Access your CE Record

Visit the DCDS website and click on the “Track Your CE” link or the “Track CE” menu item.



Click on the “Log in CE” button.



Filter courses by date.

Download or print your CE record.



Education Unit Summary




From Date: MM DD 2023
 To Date: MM DD 2023

Sort by Earned Date: Sort by Date: Newest to Oldest

Filter Clear

* Filter will be applied to "Course End Date (DateEarned)"

 PDF Export My CE Transcripts
 Print My CE Transcripts

Provider	Title	Status	Education Category	Location	CEUs	Earned Date	Expiration Date	Description	Actions
ADA	Conscious and Unconscious Bias in Dental Practice Ethical Considerations	Approved	ADA-Chicago	ADA Online	2.00	5/24/2023	-		
ADA	Clinical Complications In Fixed Prosthodontics: Causes, Prevention, and Management, Part 3	Approved	ADA-Chicago	ADA Online	1.00	5/24/2023	-		
ADA	Physical intimate partner violence and oralhealth problems during pregnancy (April 2023 Article 2)	Approved	ADA-Chicago	ADA Online	1.00	5/24/2023	-		

Need more opioids courses? Check out these courses from the ADA.

Course	Credit Type
Special Considerations of Pain Management and Opioid Use in Older Adults	CE Credit (ADA CERP)
Emergency Department Referral Model in Action: Addressing Dental Access Opioid Prevention and Pain Management	CE Credit (ADA CERP)
Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Acute Dental Pain	CE Credit (ADA CERP)

The following one-hour ADA webinars are hosted by the ADA through the Providers Clinical Support System. The courses are free and include a certificate of completion. The ADA is an approved training provider.

Course	Credit Type
The Dental Hygienist’s Role in Supporting Patients with Substance Use Disorder	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
What You Need to Know About Pain Management as the Opioid Overdose Crisis Evolves	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
Opioids, Dentistry and Addiction: The Dentist’s Role in Treating Pain	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
The Impact of COVID-19 on the Addiction Field: A Call to Dentists	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
Integrating Controlled Substance Risk Assessment and Management into Dental Practice	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)

Programs and Discounts

DC Dental Society has partnered with service providers to offer member discounts. We currently partner with:

Affinity Programs

Educational Loans



Compliance Services



Insurance



Dental Supplies



ADA Endorsed Programs

Our Endorsed Company Program brings you special member savings on products and services designed specifically to work for your practice: from professional liability insurance to business credit cards to office supplies and computers. There are also endorsements geared towards your home life, such as health insurance, appliances, and even automobiles.

Many members are able to recoup a great deal of their dues dollars through the savings they receive by simply participating in these programs. Take advantage of the benefits of membership.

For more information about these programs, visit the [DCDS website](#)

Did You Know?

If You Missed the Live Symposium Presentations, You Can Still Purchase and Access the Recordings

The 2023 Spring Symposium for Licensure was held April 11 to April 27, 2023. The Symposium provides four courses that are required for license renewal in DC: infection control, LGBTQ+ cultural competency, ethics and opioids misuse (prescribing dentists only).

These courses were held virtually. The Board of Dentistry now allows all CE requirements to be satisfied through online courses. Additional details regarding DC continuing education requirements for dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants are available on the DCDS [DC Licensure](#) web page.

If you have not registered for these courses, registration is still open to receive the course recordings. Dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants are invited to register.

View more information about the [Symposium](#).

View more information about the [Speakers](#).

Course Category	CE Credits Offered	Required for Dentists	Required for Dental Hygienists	Required for Dental Assistants
Minimum CE Hours		30 hours	15 hours	10 hours
Infection Control	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
LGBTQ Cultural Competency	2 hours*	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
Ethics	1 hour	1 hours	1 hour	1 hour
Abuse and Misuse of Prescription Drugs/Opioids	2 hours	2 hours for prescribers	Not Required	Not Required
CPR	Not Offered	CPR for health care providers	Basic Level CPR	2 hours in Basic Life Support

*Includes credit for the self-study article "Supporting Hispanic LGBTQ+ Patients."

Register for Symposium Recordings

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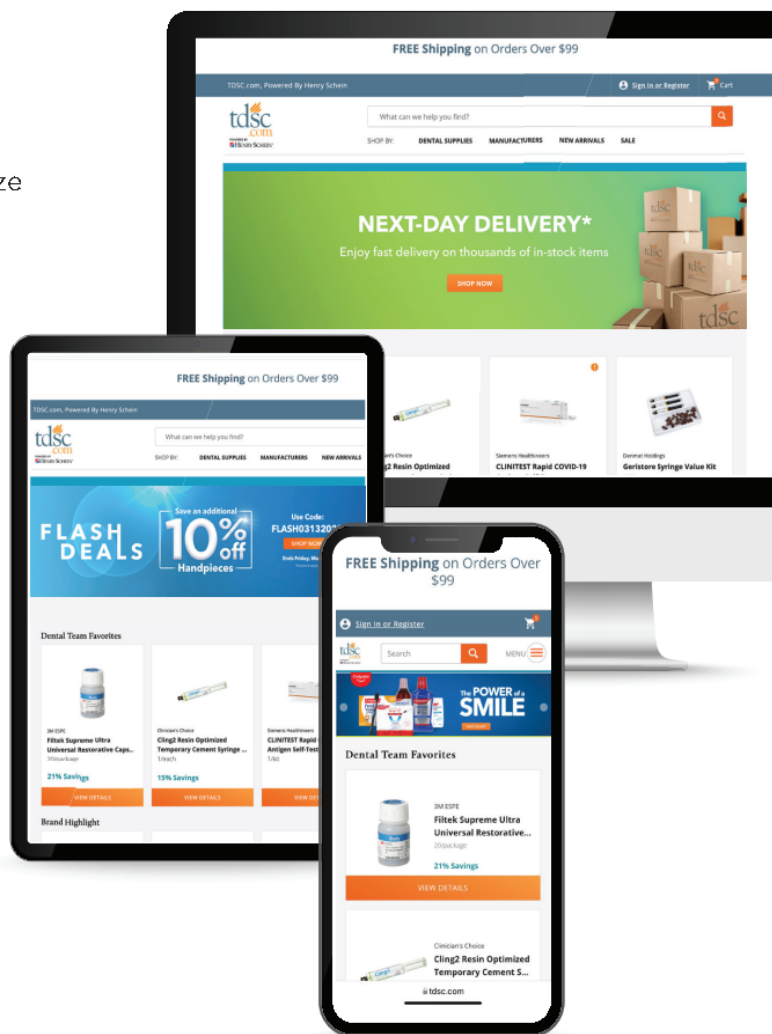
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Dental community asked to urge Congress to support Dental and Optometric Care Access Act

ADA Morning Huddle, June 29, 2023

The ADA encourages members of the dental community to urge Congress to pass the [Dental and Optometric Care Access Act](#), which would prevent dental and vision plans from determining fees that dentists can charge enrollees for services that are not covered, create network provider participation rules and maintain freedom of choice in laboratories, among other measures. "As you know, noncovered services provisions in dental and vision plans disadvantage enrollees, doctors and the public at large because they interfere with the patient-doctor relationship, skew the pricing charged to nonsubscribers and encourage the consolidation of the dental and vision insurance industries, resulting in higher premiums overall," said ADA President George R. Shepley, D.D.S.

[Full Story: Dental and Optometric Care Access Act](#)

Research spotlights gaps in opioid disorder therapy

ADA Morning Huddle, June 29, 2023

US deaths related to opioid use have increased in recent years, rising from 51,000 in 2019 to 81,000 in 2021, and a study of Medicaid patients shows that fewer than half of those diagnosed get medication to treat the disorder. The research, published in [JAMA Health Forum](#), examined data from adults in 46 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico over a three-year period, with co-author Dennis McCarty, Ph.D., noting that medication is considered the appropriate treatment for nearly all individuals with the disorder. The ADA offers [information and resources](#) on the opioid crisis.

[Full Story: Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Not Consistent Around the Nation](#)

ADA to offer new Dental Claim Form in 2024

ADA Morning Huddle, June 27, 2023

A new version of the ADA Dental Claim Form is coming in 2024 that addresses a problem encountered when filing claims for services delivered by a "locum tenens" dentist -- one who is standing in for another while away from the practice for a short time. The form also provides space for reporting other data that can expedite timely claim adjudication and reimbursement as well as the national identifier assigned to third-party payers, known as payer ID. A sample 2024 claim form and its completion instructions are now posted at [ADA Dental Claim Form | American Dental Association](#).

[Full Story: ADA Dental Claim Form](#)

ADA publishes guidance on caries restorations

ADA Morning Huddle, June 27, 2023

A new ADA clinical guideline on restorative treatments for caries lesions, published in [The Journal of the American Dental Association](#), includes 16 recommendations for treating moderate or advanced caries lesions in primary and permanent teeth without a history of endodontic treatment. The guidance associated conservative approaches to removing carious tissue with a lower risk of adverse effects and is based on data in a systematic review and meta-analysis published in [JADA](#) earlier in 2023.

[Full Story: New Caries Restorations Guideline](#)

Enter your practice into the 2023 Design Innovation Awards

ADA Morning Huddle, June 26, 2023



Is your practice a winner? Enter now through Aug. 18 to win \$1,000 and have your dental office featured in ADA publications. Enter in one of three categories: new build, large new build (over 2,000 sq. ft.) or remodel. Judges from the ADA's Council on Dental Practice will narrow the field to three finalists in each category, then online voting will determine the winners.

Visit [ADA.org/DIA](https://ada.org/DIA) for more information and to download an entry form.

Help your pediatric patients thrive, July 27 to 29

ADA Morning Huddle, June 29, 2023



As a dental professional, you hold the key to finding the causes behind poor behavior, developing bad habits and atypical growth. Hone these skills in "Kids Don't Grow Out of It, They Need Your Help -- Here's How: An ADA Children's Airway Event," July 27 through 29 at ADA headquarters in Chicago. In this course, you will get hands-on training from practicing experts, as well as communication skills to educate your pediatric patients and their caregivers. 17 CE credits. [Register today!](#)

ADA summit to explore ways to support dentist well-being

ADA Morning Huddle, June 28, 2023

Wellness leaders and stakeholders will join ADA Wellness Ambassadors and others during the [ADA Health and Well-Being Summit](#) on Sept. 8. Panelists will share their expertise along with ways to alleviate burnout and support dental provider well-being. "Dentists play an essential role in making people healthy -- but it's much harder for them to do so if they are not healthy themselves," said Raymond Cohlmia, D.D.S., ADA executive director.

[Full Story: Health and Well-Being Summit](#)

Facilitate patient conversations on over 50 topics in "Chairside Instructor"

ADA Morning Huddle, June 28, 2023



Perfect in the operatory or the classroom, the "Chairside Instructor," 12th Edition, includes the most up-to-date knowledge on topics ranging from daily hygiene habits to identifying symptoms of sleep apnea. This bestselling resource boasts more than 220 images and is available in English and Spanish, is laminated for easy clean-up between patients and features tabs for finding topics easily.

To order, visit [ADAstore.org](#). Save 15% on ADA Store products by using promo code 23506 by July 21.



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“

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”

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Classifieds

Help Wanted—Dental Hygienist

Description: General dentist practice is seeking a part-time Dental Hygienist. Should have great bedside manners, punctual and with good communication skills. Friendly and relaxed environment. Your only focus would be providing exceptional patient care. New graduates also welcome!

Contact: Dr. Laudan Izadi | 202-276-0021 | laudizadi@gmail.com

Help Wanted—Dental Hygienists and Assistants

Description: Looking for individuals who are passionate, enjoy learning & contributing new ideas & are ready to be a partner in improving patient experience! If you are ready to feel challenged & inspired, want more variety & want to work with your teammates to create something special; please email your resume.

Contact: Dr. Ashley Fagan | 202-918-1204 | hiringdentalteam@gmail.com

Help Wanted—Dentists and Associate Dentists

Description: Opportunities available: AZ, CT, DC, GA, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, MS, SC, TX, VA. Support our mission to provide excellent dental care in the community & help us create more smiles & memorable experiences for children & adults. Join a team that believes in teamwork & truly cares about their patients.

Contact: Marina Miller | 404-334-4924 | jobs@benevis.com

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