

Tooth - Bytes



Wisconsin Dental Hygienists' Association

Winter 2010

A Little Clarification of OSHA and Continuing Education Please?

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It seems as though there is a lot of confusion as to what role OSHA can have in our continuing education requirement for licensure. I assure you that this confusion did not exclude me. After tackling the internet and still not being clear, I was able to contact an official OSHA educator and consultant by the name of Nan Dreves. Her company is named, "Professional Health Horizons". She is an RDH/MBA and her expertise lies in OSHA- blood borne pathogens, and CDC- infection control standards. Between talking to Nan and consulting our Wisconsin DRL, I was able to get a little clearer on the topic at hand.

Continuing education requirements

I would like to start off with the basics on our continuing education requirements. As of January 1st 2007, Dentists and Hygienist were required by their licensure agreements to have and keep track of continuing education credits that follow a biannual time frame. Dentists and dental hygienists have different requirements. A dentist is required to have 30 credits biennially, where as a **hygienist is required to have 12 credits**. There are some more specific

clauses for the dental hygienists' requirements than the dentists. The Wisconsin Department of Licensing and Regulation states that a hygienist must also keep up to date basic life support, but it may not be considered more than 2 of your continuing education credits. A credit is based on how many hours the course you take was. Nan was able to give me more specification on the CPR



requirements. I assumed that everyone was supposed to take CPR annually, but found out that is not necessarily the case. The American Heart Association has renewal requirements of every 2 years, however if you train through The American Red Cross, you are required to update annually.

The Tricky Part

Here is where the tricky part comes in. As a hygienist, we are required that 2 of our continuing education credits must be on infection control. That's OSHA training right? Maybe, maybe not. Let me specify.

OSHA has their own set of rules to be followed and we need to separate that from how it fits into our continuing education requirements first. There is a "General Duty Clause" in place with OSHA. Anyone working in a dental office that may in some shape or form come in contact with splatter or any form of blood borne pathogen, is required to annually take a blood borne pathogen OSHA training course. This of course would require the dental hygienist, assistants, and dentist to do so, but also if there is an office person who may step in from time to time, they need to as well. For reference sake there are specifications on **guidelines for infection control** outlined in Center of Disease Control MMWR December 19th 2003 vol. 52.

Person teaching the course must be an "expert"

The guidelines state that the person teaching the course must be an "expert" on what they are teaching. This person would have to accurately represent your office instead of you if you were ever to be

audited by OSHA. If you want to use this training as part of your continuing education requirements, the safest route is to **hire someone "out of house" to do your training**. However, if you want to take on the risk of doing "in house" training by your own office staff, there are some steps you should take to make it qualify.

When doing "in house training", make sure at the beginning of the class there is a sign in sheet. This sign in sheet should have the name of the person teaching the class at the top and their credentials, along with all staffs signatures. Besides having an expert train you, it is required that a



question and answer session take place during training. There should also be handouts and certificates of completion. Remember that if you are doing "in house" you must keep copies of the handouts and certificates of completion for your proof of the continuing education along with the length of time of the course.

OSHA is about employee safety

Our readers should keep in mind that OSHA is about employee safety and CDC infection control standard of care for our patients. These guidelines overlap in some places but they are distinct just the same. For example, it is OSHA that says we must wear a certain style of body clothing and it must be laundered by the practice and not brought home by the employee. This is not the CDC which has nothing to do with our infection control or patient care. Adversely, the requirement that patient's wear safety glasses is a standard of care for the safety of our patients and is not about the safety of the employee.

OSHA has a disciplinary arm that if a violation were uncovered by an inspection, the practice can be fined, where if there is a violation rendered upon a patient- they have the right to complain to not only OSHA, but to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Dentistry Examining Board.

For any information that is not clarified or if you are interested in finding someone to do a professional out of house training course , or a walk through inspection for you, please contact Nan Dreves at ndreves@charter.net

Tonya Rebhahn RDH
Co-Trustee-NWWDHA

Thoughts from WDHA President, Debbie Schumacher



It is February and two things come to mind for me: Children's Dental Health Month (CDHM) and of course Valentine's Day. To recognize CDHM, I am sure many of you have implemented special events in your offices or are visiting a school to provide a dental health program for the children and I bet some of you are participating in the "Give Kids a Smile Day" events around the state. Whatever you are doing to help in your community, thank you! It shows that you have a heart. Since Valentine's Day represents affection and appreciation, it seems like the perfect time to showcase our first feature for Hygiene Heartbeat. I am sure you will enjoy reading about Sarah Wruck from Holcombe.

Look to the Government section of the website (wi-dha.com) for a report and updates about the Dental Education Feasibility study that is underway. The study is due to be completed by the end of March.

This year the WDA sponsored Mission of Mercy will be held at Sheboygan High School on June 24-27th. If you are interested, registration to volunteer is available at this time at wda.org. [Click here](#) for more information.

Stay warm, winter is almost over!
Debbie Schumacher RDH, ME-PD
WDHA President 2009-2010

Annual WDHA Student Scholarship Recipients

Students from each of the dental hygiene programs in Wisconsin were invited to apply for a \$200 scholarship opportunity sponsored by Wisconsin Dental Hygienists' Association.

Students were asked to write an essay on: ***"How Being A Student Member of ADHA Has Impacted My Professional Development"*** Below are excerpts from each winning essay. Congratulations to the winners!

Megan Lube *Chippewa Valley Technical College*

"I have seen myself grow in confidence not only in what I have learned but in how I carry myself as an individual and also the relationships I have established thus far. Without the opportunities presented to me by ADHA, I am not sure I would love the dental hygiene field as much as I do!"

Lindsey Passe *Western Technical College*

"Being a member of the American Dental Hygiene Association is vital in providing a voice in government, mainly to protect the future of dental hygiene. I have not currently had the opportunity to exercise this right, but I know it is available for my concerns regarding my career choice, and is important to the future of the profession."

Bethany Gardner *Chippewa Valley Technical College*

Annual session: Attended 2009 annual session in Washington D.C

Determination: It gives me a drive to take on challenges and finish them.

History: Looking at the timeline and what the ADHA has done for dental hygiene makes me want to stay involved and help making history for the future.

Aptitude: I am ready to learn and accept new challenges."





Hygiene Heartbeat

It won't take long after you meet **Sarah Wruck** to realize her warmth and compassion. She says she "really loves what she does, and glad she chose this route (or it chose her)"! Sarah's work is in non-traditional settings with Head Start and special needs children. Sarah is a Chippewa Falls native and now resides in Holcombe. The people in Western Wisconsin recognize how lucky we are to have her here. Here is her story.



Dental Hygiene Education:

Sarah graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College in 1999. She regularly participates in continuing education and seeks classes on special needs patients or pediatric dentistry.

Work:

Sarah calls herself a public health dental hygienist and an oral health educator. She works in 25 Head Start programs through Western Dairyland. Her busy 45+ hours per week take her to a variety of settings. The settings may be traditional head start classrooms, home based or Head Start partner programs. When Sarah walks into a partner program facility, she doesn't know which kids are with Head

Start. Once identified, all of the children signed up for her program receive education, examinations, fluoride varnish and a referral when in need of dental care. A letter is sent home as well as to the health services assistant for the program who follows up to make sure care is received.



Much to her delight, Sarah also participates in parent conferences to discuss the oral health of the child with their parent one on one and presents to a group of parents at parent meetings on various oral health topics.

Sarah is also the Western Regional Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN) oral health care coordinator. Ten percent of the children in a head start program must have special needs. She partners with Karen Eslinger at Marshfield Clinic in Chippewa Falls. Sarah recently finished working on a unique grant with Community Health Partnership where she and CVTC dental hygiene students would go into the homes of adults with developmental disabilities and do an oral health assessment and come up with an oral health care plan. The plan was then discussed with the individual and the personal care

worker and the tools to carry out the plan were also given to the individual.



Favorite part of job: "When I am able to see the education I have done has made a difference" The ever increasing enthusiasm of the Head Start staff which trickles down to the children and the families. How the children go from fearful at their first visit to jumping in line to be seen by the third visit!

Wish for the future of the dental hygiene profession: For dental hygienists to be able to do what we are trained to do without the obstacles to delivering services to the underserved.

Favorite pastime: Time with family and friends, traveling and scuba-diving

“Take the initiative to seek out alternative dental hygiene opportunities” Sarah Wruck, RDH

Recent travel: A two week vacation in Fiji with her husband Bob, alternating scuba-diving with just plain relaxing in the tropical sun.

Best advice you ever received: tomorrow is never promised, live today!!

Mentor: Linda Bohacek

Advice to the class of 2010: “Take the initiative to seek out alternative dental hygiene opportunities”

Where would you take an out of town visitor: For a leisurely pontoon ride on beautiful Lake Holcombe!



2010 Indigo Conference October 8 - 10 **Kalahari Resort & Water Park, Wisconsin Dells**



Thank you to all who attended and volunteered for the 2009 successful Indigo Conference. We listened to your requests and have decided to hold our annual conference at the Kalahari Resort October 8-10 in 2010. Mark your calendars now so you can be sure to have this time reserved for the WDHA Indigo Dental Hygiene Conference. Stop by the website later in the Spring for updates on speakers and events.