



FALL 2012

FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC THROUGH LICENSURE,
ENFORCEMENT AND INFORMATION



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I would again like to stress the importance of maintaining detailed patient dental records in your practice. Failure to maintain adequate patient records is a violation commonly cited in many of our disciplinary cases. The standard is to keep written dental records and medical history records justifying the course of treatment of the patient including, but not limited to: patient histories, clinical examination results, results of tests conducted, radiographs used for diagnosis and treatment planning, and notes concerning treatment rendered to the patient. If a patient is referred to a specialist, it should be noted in the record.

When reviewing disciplinary cases, the Probable Cause Panel determines whether these items were sufficiently detailed in the patient's record. The law requires that you maintain these records for four years following the patient's last appointment. Our goal is to ensure that every dentist meets these minimum standards of practice.

Best wishes,
Wade Winker, DDS

Unlicensed Activity – What You Can Do To Stop It!

Over the last four fiscal years, the Unlicensed Activity Unit (ULA) of the Department has received 209 complaints against unlicensed dentists. These complaints have resulted in 42 cease and desist notices, 113 referrals to law enforcement and 41 arrests.

Many of these type cases are headliners, some even getting national attention. There was the recent case of the 14 year old girl whose mother took her to the 81 year old “backyard dentist,” Humberto Perez, who police said disfigured the girl when she needed a tooth repaired. Another case, “Operation Tooth Fairy,” involved a Davie man, John Collazos, who practiced dentistry in a warehouse. He was the third person since June who had been arrested on charges of practicing dentistry without a license. In June, Jorge Romero-Paredes, 57, of Hollywood was arrested after he performed oral surgery at a woman's trailer home causing the woman to undergo further surgery after her mouth became severely infected.

The unlicensed practice of a health care profession or the performance or delivery of health care services to residents and visitors in Florida without a valid, active license to practice is strictly prohibited. The ULA protects Florida residents and visitors from the potentially serious and dangerous consequences of receiving dental care from an unlicensed person.

Anonymous complaints can be investigated if the complaint is in writing and if detailed information is supplied. If a violation is confirmed, the law states that this is a third degree felony as provided in s. 775.082, F.S., and a fine of \$5000 per incident cited can be assessed.

If you suspect unlicensed practice of dentistry, call the ULA hotline at 1-877-HALT-ULA (1-877-425-8852) or visit the ULA web page at www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/unlicensed/unlic_home.html.

You can verify licensure status online through the Health Professionals License Lookup at www.FL.Healthsource.com. A search can be performed by last name, business name, profession, county, or license number.

FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

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2012 Florida Board of Dentistry



Front row from left: Vicki Campbell, Cathy Cabanzon, RDH, BASDH, Elmira Gainey, and Carol Stevens, DDS. Back row from left: Robert Perdomo, III DMD, Vice Chair, Joe Thomas, DDS, Carl Melzer, DDS, Dan Gesek, DMD, Bill Kochenour, DDS, and Wade Winker, DDS, Chair.

August 16-17, 2012 Board Meeting Recap

Dr. Dan Gesek, Chair of the Anesthesia Committee held a meeting on the evening of August 16, 2012 with the Anesthesia Committee discussing requirements to ensure patient safety.

The following day, the Board reviewed 11 disciplinary cases, accepting ten settlement agreements and one voluntary relinquishment of license. The Board also took action on four petitions for variance and waiver, including a petition on behalf of 17 foreign-trained dentists currently enrolled in postgraduate specialty programs. A petition was presented on behalf of Nova Southeastern University to allow limited one-time dental examinations and same day treatment where pro-bono services do not result in the dentist becoming the dentist of record. Dr. Perdomo, Vice Chair, reported on his attendance at the North East Regional Board meeting in Washington, D.C. and Dr. Winker, Chair, discussed prequalification of patients for dental and dental hygiene exams prior to the applicant taking the exam and also discussed Curriculum Integrated format (CIF), which would permit some parts of the exam to be taken during a student's final year.

There were several application/credentials reviews. For detail of these minutes and the audio of this meeting, please go to the Board of Dentistry website at www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/dentistry.

Dental Health Resource Listing

The Dental needs of disadvantaged persons in the State are great and public resources to meet these are limited. A resource listing by county is available at the following website: www.doh.state.fl.us/family/dental/resources/index.html. Click on appropriate county for a listing of Medicaid area offices, county health departments, community health centers, dental schools, volunteer programs.