

Iowa Dental Board Report - October 2016

The Iowa Dental Board held the quarterly meeting on October 13. As always there were many issues discussed by the board.

License renewal is a special concern to the board. The board is strongly encouraging licensees to renew licenses at the dental board website. The paper renewal applications require board labor to enter the information into the computer system. It is very costly for the board staff to manually enter the information from paper applications. The website renewals automatically enter the information into the system and save the board money. Interestingly, the number of paper license renewals has increased each year since the establishment of the website renewal option in 2013. Please consider renewing licenses at the dental board website.

The application of silver diamine fluoride as a caries preventative treatment was referred back to the board for more discussion among involved parties. The issue of supervision in public settings is a special concern.

There were multiple changes to the Iowa Administrative Code involving hygiene examination and licensure by credential that were passed. Other issues involving license renewal, license reinstatement, and continuing education that were referred for consideration and redrafted language.

Iowa code changes involving practitioner transition including retirement, dental practice sale, and practitioner changing location were approved. The transition of a dentist into retirement, through dental practice sale, or moving to another location requires that the dentist notify all patients treated in the past 2 years either by mail or by newspaper notice for 3 weeks.

There has been a longstanding disagreement between the dental board and the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry involving the dental examination process. The dental college favors abandoning the live patient examination. The dental board strongly supports live patient examinations. Multiple alternatives have been discussed. Recently, the dental board, the college of dentistry, and CRDTS (Central Regional Dental Testing) reached a compromise. The compromise will be effective for the graduating dental class in 2017.

The board discussed examination resources for dental assistants involving jurisprudence, infection control, and radiology. The board wants outside parties to provide radiography resource materials and testing.

The attending professional associations presented their legislative agendas for the coming legislative session. The Iowa Dental Association will continue to promote the Dental Patient Protection Act involving "Assignment of Dental Insurance Benefits" and "Uniform Coordination of Benefits" statute.

The Iowa Dental Hygiene Association will pursue supervision of screenings.

Of special note, the expanded functions level 2 course offered by the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry has 18 attendees including 1 hygienist. It will be interesting to see the effect of the level 2 functions assistants in the provision of dental treatment.

As always, it is extremely important for Iowa dentists to attend the dental board meetings. The dental board appreciates and encourages attendance and participation by dentist licensees. Dentistry is our profession. It is important that we be involved. The next dental board meeting is January 26, 27, 2017.

Dr. Stephen Thies
IAGD Legislative Chair

