

The Iowa Dental Board public meeting was held on Friday, August 2, 2019. As per previous meetings, the meeting was attended by the Iowa Dental Association, the Iowa Department of Public Health, Delta Dental representative, Iowa Dental Assistant Association, and the University of Iowa College of Medicine representative.

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy representative gave a thorough presentation of the current status of the Prescription Monitoring Program. Participation and utilization of the program has increased now that participation is mandatory. Electronic prescription will be required beginning January 2020. Software provider vendors were suggested.

A notable continuing education course was considered by the continuing education committee. The Harkin Institute at Drake University "Closing the Divide: Integrating Medical and Dental Healthcare Conference. Health care models have changed over the years as science has advanced and provided health information. However, oral health care has been left out of the total medical picture. The institute seeks to incorporate oral health in the medical system.

The Iowa code involving expanded functions for dental assistants was evaluated to provide consistency in language throughout the rules. During the public comment a question about phlebotomy by dental assistants or hygienists was asked. In the past the board has discussed allowing dental staff to perform phlebotomy to obtain platelet rich plasma. This function is still being considered. No decision or change has been made at this time.

Mandatory Reporter Training compliance requirements have been changed by the legislature from 5 years to 3 years. A notice of intended action about changes to the Iowa code will be filed. The dates for public comment have not been determined.

Training for sedation monitors for moderate sedation, deep sedation, and general anesthesia is now required. Providers that are not able to train staff prior to the August 21, 2019 deadline filed waivers for meeting the deadline. The board approved the waivers.

As always please consider attending the dental board meetings. Comments are appreciated by the board. Licensee comments are given serious consideration by the board.

The next board meeting will be September 27, 2019.

Dr. Stephen R. Thies
Legislative chair
Iowa Academy of General Dentistry