

Report of the Meeting of the Dental Board of California

December 3-4, 2012

Prepared for the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
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The Dental Board of California met December 3-4, 2012, in Los Angeles. The following report summarizes actions and issues coming before the Board pertinent to pediatric oral health

Legislation to Require Dental Laboratories to Register with the Dental Board

At the May 2012 Board meeting, the California Dental Association (CDA) appeared before the Board to discuss regulation of dental laboratories. Specifically, CDA suggested requiring dental labs engaged in the manufacture or repair of dental prosthetic appliances in California to register with the Board (similar to the current requirement for dental referral services) and to disclose to the dentist the material content and place of origin of such appliances.

A subcommittee of the Board was appointed to work with CDA, key stakeholders, and staff to determine the feasibility of the proposal. In its report to the Board, the subcommittee expressed concern of unintended consequences the proposal could place on California licensed dentists and did not recommend moving forward with a legislative proposal. The subcommittee found it unclear how the Board would enforce a dental laboratory's disclosure of material content. Additionally, requiring dental laboratories to disclose material content and FDA registration numbers could potentially increase lab costs which would be passed on to the dentist issuing the work order and ultimately the consumer. The subcommittee also questioned the repercussions to a licensed dentist doing business with an unregistered dental laboratory and the costs and administrative burden placed on Board staff and enforcement division.

Comment: Should the Board or CDA move forward with a legislative proposal in the future, it will be important to consider if the intent is to include the manufacture of pediatric tooth replacement appliances or orthodontic appliances containing anterior pontics and to craft language accordingly.

Implementation of Notice to Consumers of Licensure by the Dental Board

The requirement that dentists provide notice to consumers of licensure by the Dental Board became effective November 28, 2012. This new regulation requires licensed dentists engaged in the practice of dentistry to provide conspicuous notification to consumers that dentists in California are licensed and regulated by the Dental Board of California. The notice is required to be prominently posted in a conspicuous location accessible to public view on the premises where the dentist provides licensed services. The notice is required to be in at least 48-point type font and include the following statement and information:

<p>NOTICE TO CONSUMERS Dentists are licensed and regulated by the Dental Board of California (877) 729-7789 www.dbc.ca.gov</p>
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To implement the requirement, notification has been posted to Board's web site and an email blast sent to licensees signed-up to receive email notifications from the Board. Staff has also provided a sign on the Board's web site available for download.

Comment: Although taking effect November 28, the Board will send written notification by postal service delivery to all licensees before it begins enforcement of the regulation sometime next year.