

Report of the Meeting of the Dental Board of California

February 28 – March 1, 2013

Prepared for the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
by Paul Reggiardo, DDS, Public Policy Advocate

The Dental Board of California met February 28 - March 1, 2013, in San Diego. The following report summarizes actions and issues coming before the Board pertinent to pediatric oral health

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INFECTION CONTROL

The California Dental Practice Act requires annual review by the Dental Board of the regulations relevant to the minimum standards for infection control. The Board discharged that responsibility this year by assignment of a subcommittee consisting of one representative each from the Dental Board, the Dental Assisting Council of the Board, and the Dental Hygiene Committee of California.

The subcommittee reported to the Board that the section relative to gloves may need to be revised to specify that puncture-resistant gloves are required when processing sharp instruments, needles, and devices. The section currently only specifies that when processing contaminated sharps, dental health care personnel shall wear heavy-duty utility gloves to prevent puncture wounds. Board staff recommended it was not necessary, at this time, to amend the regulations as the current language implies that “heavy duty” gloves are “puncture-resistant” and posed no threat to public safety.

Comment: Since no other public safety issues were identified, California infection control regulations will not change this year. The Board directed staff to retain the subcommittee’s review and findings for consideration during future annual reviews.

ACCESS TO CARE COMMITTEE

As part of the consideration of the potential impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on delivery of dental services, Dr. Huong Le, Board President, re-established an *Access to Care Committee*. Public member Fran Burton was appointed Chair, with other members of the Board to be appointed later.

Comment: It was unclear, at the time of the meeting, what would be the charge or scope of interest of the committee.

PORTFOLIO PATHWAY TO DENTAL LICENSURE

The Board received the final *Portfolio Pathway to Licensure Report* prepared by Progeny Systems Corporation. The Board also received and accepted the final draft of the *Candidate Handbook and Examiner Training Manuals*.

The consultant’s report and the manuals can be accessed on the Board’s website at http://www.dbc.ca.gov/about_us/materials/20130516.mm.pdf .