

Fall 2006

HOSPITAL LEVEL DISINFECTION FOR DENTAL PRACTICES

Sterilox Dental Systems decontaminate and disinfect both **hard surfaces and inside dental unit water lines (DUWLs)** to ensure a safe, clean environment and prevent disease transmission for dental professionals, patients and staff. Please refer to the enclosed article by David Correale, Vice-President of Puricore, formerly Sterilox. Also included: “A New Paradigm in Treating Waterline Biofilm”, and informative handout that has a brief quiz valued at **4 CEU’s!**

For more information, please visit www.puricore.com or call our office and we will be happy discuss how it works in our practice.

CARE CREDIT

As a service to patients, we are always looking for creative solutions to helping them afford their treatment. A colleague requested we look into joining Care Credit, and we were pleased to discover their innovative approach to patient financing. In short, once a patient has a line of credit, they can use their Care Credit at any provider that is enrolled with Care Credit. Providers are not limited to dentistry, but include optometrists, veterinarians, and others.

The **application process is simple, including on-line pre-approval**, and payment is received quickly by electronic deposit. The enrollment fee, normally \$395 was reduced to \$195 for ADA members. We’ve enclosed a copy of their brochure, or you can check them out on the web at www.carecredit.com. Care Credit has even been given the thumbs up by Dr. Michael Cohen, President and Founder of the Seattle Study Club.

NEW ORAL SEDATION REGULATIONS FOR LOUISIANA

From the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation website:

For patients under thirteen (13) years of age, the administration of more than one agent of any type, including nitrous oxide, shall be considered conscious sedation, and shall require a conscious sedation permit.

In order to obtain a restricted (adults and children) permit to administer conscious sedation with enteral drugs, a dentist **MUST** submit verification of formal postdoctoral training in the use of enteral conscious sedation on both pediatric and adult patients, or satisfactory completion of a Board-approved course which includes a minimum of 16 hours didactic training and a component on handling emergencies to the administration of conscious sedation.

All dentists must: Utilize a working **pulse oximeter** on patients, and maintain proper **record keeping** mechanism, in addition to a **controlled substance log**.

For more information, please visit www.sedationdocs.com.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF DENTISTRY

“The sun is shining brightly on dentistry in the year 2006. Of all the health sciences, dentistry can stake a claim as the only profession that is primarily fee-for-service, has minimal third-party or government interferences with daily practice, is respected by the public, generates record income levels for dental professionals and dental industry affiliates, and is touted for the first time in history as a growth industry by the financial community. With financial and professional success comes opportunity, and with opportunity comes responsibility. We have a responsibility to stay true to our professional ethics and an obligation to give back to the segments of our society that are less fortunate.” ~ Dr. Cherilyn Sheets

We all have reason to celebrate being part of this industry and can take pride in the knowledge that most, if not all, gulf coast dentists dedicate time and energy to charitable works.

LOST AND FOUND

Patients who have relocated to our area following Katrina may have been unable to locate their previous dentists. The LDA website has a link to www.findyourdentist.org that allows **dentists to post their new location and provide contact information**. Patients who were displaced mid-treatment may be able to reach their previous dentist regarding treatment history and labwork.

THE BIG PICTURE

When it comes to patient education, size really does matter. Recently, we have acquired a **30” flat screen Dell monitor** that has made a tremendous improvement in helping patients to more clearly see and understand information they are given regarding treatment. This addition to our arsenal of digital equipment has done wonders in demonstrating that a small fracture is a big problem.

OUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Please help us provide you with the best possible service by completing the enclosed Practice Information Form. **When we receive your form (either by fax or mail), your office will be entered in a drawing for lunch for your entire team.** Providing you with accurate service is so crucial we’re willing to back it up with delicious food! Thanks in advance for your help!

It is our pleasure to work with you, your team, and especially, our mutual patients. We appreciate the opportunities to partner with you in providing your patients with services that improve their total health and well being. Thank you!

Best wishes for a wonderful fall season,

Catherine