Every year, Board staff host a booth at the Star of the North Conference. We would love for you to stop by! Catch up with us and see the programs we have been working on. The booth will be located in the rotunda, usually by the schools and other nonprofits. The conference is April 23-25th at the Saint Paul Rivercentre. See you there! [https://star.mndental.org/]

You can also fulfill many of your professional development requirements with many different courses and activities offered at the conference.

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I recently had the pleasure of representing Minnesota at the annual meeting in Colorado for the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards, along with a few other Minnesota Regulatory Board Executive Directors. This conference is very beneficial to understand trends in health licensing and regulation, regulatory reform, and regulatory activities throughout professionals. I take a great deal of pride in maintaining balance in regulation. The goal of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry is to fulfill our mission of protecting public health and safety, while maintaining this balance and objectivity through legislation and regulation, regulatory reform, and case evaluation. We also work to identify laws that can have undue burden to access to quality care for patients.

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American Dental Assistants Association - Dental Assistants Recognition Week

Dental Assistants are committed to professional development and quality dental care and are a key part of the dental practice year-round. March 1-7, 2020, has been designated by the American Dental Assistants Association as the perfect time to appreciate these versatile, multi-talented members of your dental team.

There are more than 300,000 Dental Assistants in the United States and Minnesota has over 7,400 licensed dental assistants. Minnesota is in need of even more dental assistants to serve the current population. We encourage you to spread the word about dental assisting as a career and recognize the dental assistants that you know and appreciate!

Click here for resources to use in your clinic and on social media.

Go Red for Women

The first step of GO is to Get Your Numbers! Checking blood pressure is important. Many dental clinics screen patients’ blood pressure so they can help to identify unhealthy blood pressure levels early. The Board supports this effort and would like to share some helpful reminders if your practice screens for high blood pressure.

- Blood pressure machines do not always provide accurate data. Always keep a cuff handy in case a patient has concerning numbers that do not typically correlate with what is expected for their body.
- Have a treatment protocol for screened numbers that require further attention.
- Understand that patients may not know the importance of screening. Click here for more information.
- Patient position and the length of the appointment can influence blood pressure readings.
- Prepare to refer them to their medical provider when concerns about their blood pressure arise.

- White coat hypertension is an increase in a patient’s blood pressure while in a clinic setting. If you suspect this has contributed to an irregular reading, try methods to calm the patient and recheck blood pressure if needed.

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<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Less than 120 and Less than 80</td>
<td>Keep up with heart-healthy habits</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Likely to develop high blood pressure unless steps are taken to control it</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) Stage 1</td>
<td>130 to 139 or 80 to 89</td>
<td>Health care provider may modify pharmacological treatment based on the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; positive lifestyle changes are needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) Stage 2</td>
<td>140 and higher or 90 and higher</td>
<td>Health care providers are likely to prescribe a combination of blood pressure medications; positive lifestyle changes are needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypertensive Crisis (Consult a physician immediately)</td>
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Limited Radiology Registration Proposed Rulemaking

The Board of Dentistry Policy Committee brought a proposal for rulemaking to the full Board last month. The Board approved creating language to go through the administrative rulemaking process. The language would create a limited radiology registration for assistants. This could be beneficial for dental assistants working as unlicensed individuals, because it would allow them to expose x-rays with the appropriate training and registration requirements.

The requirements would include a board approved radiology course and passing the DANB radiology examination. For more information and to review the full rulemaking proposal, see the full proposed language. (Starting on page 35). The rulemaking process in MN takes several steps from proposal to adoption, but the Board will start the process in May, along with other rulemaking efforts.

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EMERITUS LICENSURE

As a reminder, the Minnesota Board of Dentistry began issuing Emeritus licensure statuses this past summer. We offer two types of licensure: Emeritus Active and Emeritus Inactive. These distinctions are available to dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists and dental assistants. So far, we have issued 24 Emeritus Active licenses and 46 Emeritus Inactive licenses.

Emeritus Active
An emeritus active licensee may engage only in the following types of practice:
- pro bono or volunteer dental practice;
- paid practice not to exceed 500 hours per calendar year for the exclusive purpose of providing licensing supervision to meet the board’s requirements;
- or paid consulting services not to exceed 500 hours per calendar year.

Emeritus Inactive
Applicant must retire from active practice in the state.
An emeritus inactive license is not a license to practice, but is a formal recognition of completion of a person’s dental career in good standing.

To learn more about the requirements for each and to access the application forms, please click the link below:

http://mn.gov/boards/dentistry/new-applicant/
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Disciplinary/Corrective Actions

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<th>Date of Order</th>
<th>License Number</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>10/25/2019</td>
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<td>Conditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENTIST</td>
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Thank you for reading our newsletter! As always, please feel free to engage with the Board, email me with questions/comments. 

March 2020

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