

DDS DENTAL NEWS

From the Desk of the Dental Coordinator

It is with great pleasure that DDS and STS Dental Clinic welcomes back the dental hygiene students from Lincoln College (formerly known as Briarwood). This is the third year that the students and their instructors have worked with us at DDS to create an opportunity for them to learn about individuals with intellectual disabilities. The goal of the program is to improve dental professionals' attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities by providing clinical exposure for the dental hygiene students. It has been demonstrated that such experiences improve students' willingness to work with this population after graduation.



Dr. Marie Faynor, Dr. Phil Wagher, Dental Assistants Denise Blansfield and Michelle Hendricks from Southbury Training School and the Lincoln College Dental Hygiene Students with their instructor.

Speaking of education, I have had the opportunity to present a lecture to the dental students at UConn regarding consumers of DDS for each of the last three years. The goal of this lecture has been to address the oral health needs of our consumers and provide the students with additional information about best practices that should be followed when working with our consumers. After last year's lecture, one student wrote, "I just wanted to thank you for such an informative course. I had a terrified patient that needed a root canal. All of a sudden it dawned on me to cover him with a lead apron (used for x-rays) as was discussed in the lecture. The impact on his demeanor and anxiety were instantaneous. The patient was so relaxed and even thanked me after the procedure." It is emails like these that make me feel confident that we are making headway, and that these future dentists will treat people with disabilities once they graduate.



FALL FOR SMILES



Fall for Smiles is a national oral health awareness campaign sponsored by Oral Health America. Oral Health America is a national, non profit organization dedicated to changing lives by connecting communities with resources to increase access to dental care, education and advocacy. This is a perfect opportunity for DDS to join this campaign and remind everyone that your mouth is connected to your body. Many people do not realize that problems that start in the mouth may affect the overall health. For instance, individuals who have diabetes are fifteen times more likely than non-diabetics to have lost their teeth (C.P. Yakiwchuk & M.E. Wener). Additionally, recent research indicates that gum disease may increase the incidence of heart disease.

We should all make a commitment to take the time out of our busy schedules and start taking care of our mouths. Not only will this help you stay healthy, but it will also help the people with whom you work. In my experience, if a caregiver takes care of their mouth, then they will be more inclined to help the consumers to take care of their mouths. It is strongly recommended that teeth be brushed after breakfast in the morning and after the last snack at night. If at all possible, clean between teeth using floss or another aid at least once a day. If you need help establishing an oral hygiene program for your consumers, please do not hesitate to contact me at izabella.pulvermacher@ct.gov.

~ Recommendations on the Proper use of Gel-Kam or Prevident ~

Gel-Kam (Stannous Fluoride) or Prevident (Sodium Fluoride) are fluoride gels used to prevent dental decay. In order to optimize their therapeutic value certain steps should be closely followed.

1. Gel-Kam or Prevident is usually applied two times a day (please check doctors orders).
2. Two toothbrushes should be used: one for brushing with toothpaste and one for the Gel-Kam or Prevident.
3. Thorough flossing and toothbrushing should precede the fluoride application.
4. If possible, let the individual rinse their mouth after toothbrushing and before the fluoride.
5. Take out the dry toothbrush and apply a small amount of Gel-Kam or Prevident. DO NOT wet the toothbrush with water.
6. Brush on the Gel-Kam or Prevident to all tooth surfaces. Let the individual spit out the excess. DO NOT RINSE.
7. Nothing to eat or drink for at least 30 minutes.
8. In the morning, the fluoride treatment should be done after breakfast and medications.
9. In the evening it should be done after the last snack of the day.



Although the eyes may be the window to the soul, your mouth is a window to your body's health.
(Mayo Clinic Staff)

Norwich Dental Clinic News

Dr. Daniel McLennon and the Dental Hygienist Pam Young also have some very exciting news in their clinic in Norwich. The clinic is the proud recipient of a brand new dental chair provided by the South Region. Additionally they were able to arrange for the dental light to be attached to the ceiling. This makes access to the chair much easier for the consumers and the staff of the clinic.

