



University of Pittsburgh

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School of Dental Medicine
Dental Hygiene Program

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September 23, 2008

Mr. Christopher Grovich, Esq.
State Board of Dentistry
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Mr. Grovich:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the new dental hygiene regulations. In regard to the administration of local anesthesia by dental hygienists, we support the concept of permitting dental hygienists in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to administer local anesthesia. This will bring Pennsylvania in alignment with the 41 states that now permit this function. We also support the creation of the Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner. This will provide additional job opportunities by providing the chance for us to offer services to individuals in facilities that have limited or no access to care such as those residing in long term care facilities. We also support the concepts to change our supervision after a comprehensive review of the patient's medical history, the change from direct to general supervision for exposing radiographs, and the inclusion of three hours of continuing education in communication skills. As students we feel competent and comfortable that our dental hygiene education will prepare us to provide optimal dental health care, within our scope of practice, to the residents of Pennsylvania.

We the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine, Dental Hygiene Students, appreciate the hard work and effort involved in bringing these improvements to our profession; and thank you for the opportunity to address the State Board of Dentistry.

Sincerely,

Meridith Bowling
Julie M. West
Jordan Stans
Laurie N. Summ
AnMari McEun
Danielle Miller
Jennike Rivolatti

Neghan R. Basten
Angeles M. Yeh
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