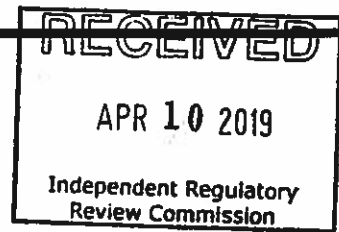


3228
Montgomery, Cynthia

From: Halupa, Michael <mhalupa@geisinger.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 11:38 AM
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3-27-19

To whom it concerns,

I am writing this note to support the proposed rule-making by the State Board of Dentistry related to amend 33.205b, associated to the practice of a public health dental hygiene practitioner.

In summary, the rule making will authorize the Board to allow for additional locations at which public health dental hygiene practitioners may practice. These additional locations should include private settings of hospice and home-bound patients, primary care settings, especially pediatric settings and childcare settings. These inclusions will allow an opportunity for those patients who are home-bound or in hospice care to be able to receive preventive dental hygiene care in their homes or hospice settings. This change will enable the patient to reduce the amount of systemic inflammation caused by oral disease. This reduction can better help manage glycemic spikes in diabetic patients as well as better manage complications caused by auto-immune diseases and cancer therapy.

With the new standard of health-care quickly becoming inter-professional, it is necessary to consider providing preventive oral health care in the pediatric and primary health medical offices. These settings are effective since they regularly manage populations that need the most preventive oral health care on a regular basis. The inclusion of public health dental hygiene practitioners into these sites will allow for better access to oral health preventive procedures in an efficient and practical manner.

Additionally, the presence of public health dental hygiene practitioners into day care settings and other areas that provide child care to low-income families will improve access to oral health care to the neediest populations of this Commonwealth and would improve the overall oral health of citizens in this Commonwealth.

The inclusion of these proposed amendments to the existing regulation, 33.205b, will absolutely enhance the availability of preventive oral health care to our neediest populations. By increasing this access it will augment the overall health of this Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Halupa, DDS
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