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July 8, 2019

Dr. Jack Erhard, Chair
Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dr. Erhard,

I write to you with serious concerns about Draft Proposed Regulation 49 Pa. Code @ 33.205b. It is my understanding that the SBOD will discuss this at its upcoming July meeting. I feel that the expansion of PHDHP independent practice to the sites addressed in the draft proposed regulation jeopardizes patient safety while perpetuating a tiered system of care that provides limited additional access to address unmet dental needs.

Every item in the Dental Code references that all treatment shall be performed by a licensed dentist or performed by someone under his direct supervision. None of these proposals in the draft require this! The standard of care proposed in these settings is far below what a dentist must provide. Patient safety is being threatened.

Please take the following considerations in your discussions:

- Expanding practice to physicians' offices does not necessarily provide additional access to care. Physicians can locate their practice where they see fit, including high-access or affluent areas of the state.
- In-home treatment, especially for the medically compromised with health complications, is inherently risky. It should not be attempted by someone without emergency care training, Basic Life Support certification, and portable life-saving equipment.
- There is no consideration or statement of who will be held civilly liable for malpractice or if the standard of care is not met for services provided by a PHDHP in a physician's office or child-care setting. Additionally, there is no statement regarding the supervisory responsibilities for physicians.

I recommend the State Board of Dentistry take the opportunity to amend these regulations with the goal of ensuring patient safety while fulfilling the original goal of PHDHP treatment, which is getting more people into a dental home. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Vincent P Floryshak, DDS, MAGD
Master of the Academy of General Dentistry