

Aspect

A QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN

Great Health Starts Here[®]

Spring 2016
Issue 1

Welcome to Aspect, Nevada Dental Benefits, Ltd.'s quarterly newsletter, through which we offer contemporary news information on oral health, the dental industry, the latest research and advice for providers.

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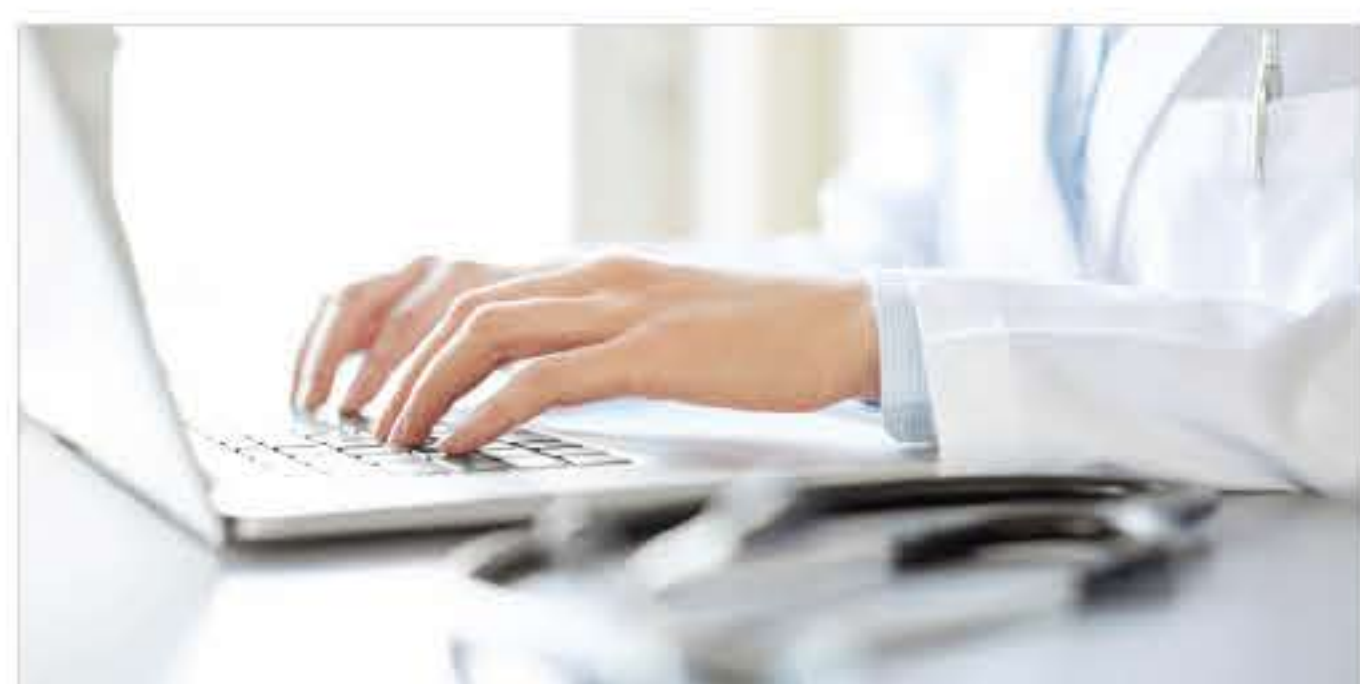
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CODES, CODES, CODES. WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

Fred L. Horowitz, DMD

We are all familiar with CDT codes used in dental claims to indicate procedures that were performed. There are other codes now in use in the dental care industry as well. They are a confusing lot of alphabet soup: SNOMED-CT; SNODENT; ICD-9; ICD-10 and LOINC. All have relevance to the practice of dentistry but have very different uses.

SNODENT are a set of codes representing diagnostic terminology created by the American Dental Association. These codes have now been included into the terminology set SNOMED-CT. SNOMED-CT is managed by the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization based in London, England and is subscribed to by over 20 countries, including the United States. This health care terminology code set is used in the Medical or Dental Health Record to indicate diseases, findings and observations. They are then also used for provider-to-provider electronic communications. If your office has a significant Medicaid population and you applied for money under the Affordable Care Act to improve your information system, than you will be familiar with the term: "Meaningful Use". SNOMED-CT codes have been designated by the federal government as the code set to use for qualifying for the aforementioned subsidies under the Meaningful Use regulations. If you do not participate in Medicaid, than the codes of the terminology set should still be used to document your electronic dental/medical record.

ICD codes (the 9 and 10 are just version indicators) are to be used to indicate diagnoses and findings in a dental claim. They are the communication set to relay this information between providers of care and payers. If a service was rendered prior to October of 2015 than ICD-9 should be used. If after October 1st of 2015 than use ICD-10. Nevada Dental Benefits, Ltd. does not require the use of the ICD codes at this time, but will sometime in the future. We will of course give you plenty of notice before that goes into effect. In the next issue we will talk about why these codes are important to both practitioners and payers. Your practice management information system should be updated with these codes. We suggest that you speak with your vendor to verify this. Most of the ones we have spoken with have indicated that they are issuing their new versions with these codes included.

FREQUENT HOME TOOTH WHITENING CAUSES DAMAGE, SAYS UBC DENTISTRY PROFESSOR

By Erin Ellis, Vancouver Sun

The craze for whiter teeth is leading some people to overuse home bleaching kits and cause permanent tooth damage, says a University of British Columbia dentistry professor.

"When you're doing it under supervision, you have someone controlling how much the bleaching progresses ... if you do it yourself you can overdo it," says Adriana Manso, a clinical assistant professor in the faculty of dentistry. Gum and tooth sensitivity are the major risks, something that can also happen with more expensive products sold by dentists since hydrogen peroxide is the active ingredient in most bleaching kits. It is available from dentists in higher concentrations than drugstore products. Manso says there have been documented reports of serious and permanent damage to tooth enamel from over-the-counter home bleaching kits as hydrogen peroxide starts to break down proteins in the teeth after initial discoloration has been removed.

[Click here](http://www.vancouversun.com) to read more on www.vancouversun.com



Meet NDB's Dental Director Patricia Steiner, DMD. Currently a Dental Quality Alliance Ambassador, Certified Dental Consultant and member of the American Dental Association, Nevada Dental Association and Southern Nevada Dental Society, Dr. Steiner is using her 17 years of experience in the healthcare industry to provide valuable tips as our resident dental expert.

PATIENT SAFETY & INFECTION CONTROL

As Dentists we took an oath to "do no harm."

One vitally important way to keep patients safe when they are in your care is to follow strict infection control protocols. It is unlikely you ever said, "I can't wait to graduate and start managing my office's infection control program," but the safety of your patients depends on it. You don't want patients leaving your office with anything except the effects of the excellent care you provided them. Keep in mind, the responsibility is yours whether you own the practice or work for someone else, the duty to keep your patients safe comes back to the oath to "do no harm".

I have attended many infection control lectures and I often hear the "would you put it in your own mouth" standard of clean. I have also completed enough infection control assessments to know that not all healthcare professionals have the same idea of what "clean enough for your mouth" means. When it comes down to it, follow CDC and manufacturer guidelines. Educate yourself and train your team. Assess the competency of your team when you assign them to perform a new duty, and then do it again annually. No one purposely puts patients at risk, but a weak link in your infection control protocols could do just that.

DENTAL AMALGAMS: WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD

Two highly negative stories on dental amalgam by a syndicated news service ran in news outlets across the country in January and are summarized in the "Dentistry in the News" section of the ADA News. You may be asked about the safety of dental amalgam as a result of these stories. The ADA's long-standing position on dental amalgam is based on the weight of credible, peer-reviewed scientific research. It is a safe, affordable and durable material and should remain available to dentists and patients as one of a number of restorative options approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

[Click here](http://www.ada.org) to read more on www.ada.org

SPRING CLEANING WITH BUCKY



Take it from Bucky, these are great tricks to add to your Spring Cleaning list



POLISH COPPER WITH KETCHUP TO MAKE IT SHINE

USE VINEGAR FOR SPARKLING WINDOWS



SCRUB MUGS WITH TOOTHPASTE TO REMOVE COFFEE STAINS



For more information on these tricks and others visit www.goodhousekeeping.com

Every day we work with some pretty amazing people, many of which are found right within our own network of dental professionals. In each newsletter, we will introduce you to one of these great individuals and ask them to share a little bit about themselves. This month we're proud to feature a dentist that not only has been caring for the dental health of our members for many years, but one that takes his passion for caring and extends it globally, touching lives beyond the field of dentistry.

Dr. Paul Phan



Where does your passion for caring for others come from?

My passion for helping others stems from my parents and my upbringings. My folks have always installed a belief that an open hand gives and receives more than a closed fist. Also, when my family first came to the U.S., poor and isolated, the gifts from strangers in terms of time, clothing and guidance firmly implanted in me the spirit of giving back to my community. After a successful dental career, I see that I am blessed with a wonderful life. With that success I decided to give back to those who need it the most. My life motto is, "Live simple so others can simply live."

I understand you recently went to Asia. Where did you go and what type of activities were you involved in?

In January 2016, I was able to visit Cambodia, where I bought rice to feed the orphan kids for two of the schools in the floating village of Siem Reap and donated money to the senior citizen homes. I also visited a hospital in Saigon, Vietnam which houses severely ill kids waiting to die or waiting for life saving surgeries, once they have enough money to get the procedures done. I was able to pay off the medical bills for 16 patients so that their surgeries can be done sooner rather than later. During our dental mission, we saw

around 50 patients a day for fillings and extractions. I also provide preventative care education by placing sealants and taught kids about proper brushing and oral hygiene techniques.

Any plans for your next trip?

Yes, my next mission trip will be this spring in the Philippines in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

We wish Dr. Phan safe travels and thank him for not only the care he provides within our community, but also for inspiring and showing us how we can help others. We look forward to hearing about his next trip.



If you know of a dentist that might like to be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters, please let us know. Email Tammy Ishibashi at tishibashi@nevadadentalbenefits.com.

DON'T MISS OUT!

We'd like to introduce you to **PrimeCare Administrators**, the newest member of the PrimeCare Benefits family. PrimeCare Administrators is a Nevada-based third party administrator offering its services to self-insured employers, ERISA plans, Taft-Hartley trusts and government sponsored dental benefit plans. If you received an invitation to join our PPO network of dental professionals, be sure to send in your application today. If you would like more information, please contact a member of our Professional Networks team at (702) 724-9080.



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