



The Bahamas Dental Council quarterly

Message from the Chairman

It is my privilege to serve as the Chairman of The Bahamas Dental Council at this time and I take this opportunity to greet you my colleagues in this profession.

The delivery of health care in The Bahamas is being challenged by a number of political and social factors. Oral Health Care in particular, at this time is faced with social trends such as tongue piercing and over the counter bridgework, as well as an increased popularity of cigars and social tobacco use. National Health Care is a hot button topic, which can have a profound effect on the way health care is delivered and therefore, its impact on the delivery of Oral Health Care should not be taken lightly.

As a Professional group, we are obligated to focus our attention on

the education of the community as it relates to oral health care and the impact that various cultural beliefs and social trends may have on maintaining good health. I applaud The Bahamas Dental Association on the commitment to raise Oral Health Awareness this year and hope that we all take every opportunities that they present to contribute to this effort.

This year, we look forward with great anticipation to the passage of the new Dental Act, which will govern our profession.



Dr. Osmond Richardson
Chairman

Of particular interest is the requirement of Continuing Dental Education for the renewal of licenses for all Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Technicians and Dental Nurses.

Dentistry is a rapidly changing profession and we have an obligation to our patients to provide the best care available to them. Some things however do not change. The etiology of dental decay, basic preventive strategies and the importance of early intervention are messages, which should continue to be emphasized to all Bahamians

I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year in this profession and wish for you all, the best as we work together serving The Bahamian Community.

Osmond Richardson

Continuing Dental Education Credits

A review of the Dental Act, 1989 was conducted during 2006 and amendments were submitted to the Ministry of Health. The Council received the

final draft of the amendments in early 2007 from the Office of the Attorney General. A final review was completed and it was anticipated that the new

Dental Act would have been passed into law by late 2007/early 2008.

Therefore, as this has not been done,

MEMBERS

Bahamas Dental Council

Dr. Osmond Richardson	Chairman
Dr. Ricardo Crawford	Treasurer
Dr. Mitchell Lockhart	
Dr. Kirk Lewis	
Margot Ingraham	
Dr. Marceline Dahl Regis	Ex-Officio
Dr. Anthony Davis	Registrar
Dr. Catherine Adderley	

Dental Humor



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."

A woman and her husband interrupted their vacation to go to the dentist. "I want a tooth pulled, and I don't want Novacaine because I'm in a big hurry," the woman said. "Just extract the tooth as quickly as possible, and we'll be on our way." Quite impressed, the dentist said "You're certainly a courageous woman, which tooth is it?" The woman turned to her husband and said, "Show him your tooth, dear".

Requirements - Continuing Dental Education

DENTIST

30 hours during a two year period

Must include:

- ◆2 hrs of Risk Management (Malpractice prevention, laws, rules, ethics, etc);
- ◆2 hrs of Infection Control/HIV/AIDS Education/Infectious diseases Education; &
- ◆1 hr of Domestic Violence Education, Social Ills and Substance Abuse Education (Minimum 1 hour - Maximum 1 hour).

In addition a CPR course at the basic life support level which includes one man, two man and child technique and results in certification or re-certification by the Bahamas Health Association, Bahamas Red Cross or any equivalent entity must be completed.

Dental Hygienists

(including Dental Nurses)

18 hours during a two year period

Must include:

- ◆2 hrs of Risk Management (Malpractice prevention, laws, rules, ethics, etc);
- ◆2 hrs of Infection Control/HIV/AIDS Education/Infectious diseases Education: &
- ◆1 hr of Domestic Violence Education, Social Ills and Substance Abuse Education (Minimum 1 hour - Maximum 1 hour).

In addition a CPR course at the basic life support level which results in certification or re-certification by the Bahamas Health Association, Bahamas Red Cross or any equivalent entity must be completed.

DENTAL TECHNICIANS

8 hours during a two year period

Must include:

- ◆1 hr of Infection Control/HIV/AIDS Education/Infectious diseases education.

The Registrar's Report

The Bahamas Dental Council came into existence in 1988 with the enactment of the current "Bahamas Dental Act, 1988". The role of the Council is mainly to regulate the profession and practice of Dentistry in The Bahamas. The Council is made up of seven members appointed by the Minister, acting both in his own discretion as well as in consultation with The Bahamas Dental Association. The four major areas of responsibility for the Council are:

1. Registration and licensing of all persons wishing to practice Dentistry in The Bahamas. In this role the Council must carefully and thoroughly evaluate the credentials of all applicants, ie. their academic qualifications, work experience and good standing in their country of residence.

2. To insure that the desired established standards of practice are maintained, through publication of Code of Ethics and the mandatory continuing education requirements. A copy of each of these documents are provided by the Council.

3. To protect the public against unregistered and unlicensed persons (quacks) and to deal with complaints from the general public regarding any dentist that they feel has professionally aggrieved them in any way.

4. To work along with the Associations (Bahamas Dental Associations & the Hygienists Association) to move dentistry forward and keep it current with the ever changing times. In this regard, the Bahamas Dental Council can put forth changes to both the Regulations as well as the Dental Act..

As Registrar of the Bahamas Dental Council, I am accessible to all registered persons under the Act (dentist, hygienist, technicians and nurses) to answer any questions, provide information and to assist in whatever way I can.

Anthony Davis

CDE Credits cont.

please be advised that the 2 year period will now begin 2007 and expire December 2008.

You are encouraged to continue to earn your credits as we strive to provide continuous quality dental care in The Bahamas.

LICENSED DENTAL PROFESSIONALS

Dentist

Nassau	64
Freeport	4
Eleuthera	2
Exuma	1
Abaco	3
Berry Islands	1

Hygienist

Nassau	24
Freeport	3
Abaco	1

Technicians

Nassau	4
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Websites for Continuing Dental Education Credits

- ◆ www.ineedce.com
- ◆ <http://www.pennwelldentalgroup.com>
- ◆ <http://www.rdhmag.com>
- ◆ fdi.org
- ◆ ada.org
- ◆ dentaltown.com