

Sue Scherer, RDH, BS

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Educator, Speaker, Author

Sue has a bachelor's in dental hygiene from Wichita State University. She has been a dental hygienist for 20 years. She has experience as a chairside clinician, dental hygiene program instructor, CE speaker and author.

She is an active volunteer with the New Jersey Dental Hygienists Association and the 2017 Cheryl Westphal Scholarship recipient.

Sue lives in Mahwah, NJ with her husband, 2 sons and their sweet rescue pup Harley.



Premedication Guidelines for Dental Professionals

Course description: Compared with previous recommendations, there are currently very few patients who require antibiotic prophylaxis (AP) prior to dental procedures. The purpose of this course is to help dental professionals understand the current guidelines for AP prior to dental procedures. We will examine the growing concern for antibiotic resistance and the role dental professionals have in antibiotic stewardship. This course will also focus on the 2021 AHA Scientific Statement which reaffirms the 2007 recommendations that emphasizes good oral health and regular access to dental care as more important than AP for a dental procedure.

Learning Objectives

1. Define the etiology of bacteremia and identify the incidence of bacteremia reported for daily activities vs. a dental cleaning.
2. Review the history of antibiotic prophylaxis.
3. Understand the current AHA, ADA and AAOS guidelines for antibiotic prophylaxis prior to dental procedures.
4. Examine the role of dental professionals toward antibiotic stewardship.
5. Recognize that maintenance of good oral health and regular access to dental care is more important than AP for a dental procedure.

Length: 1 or 2 hours

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Treating Patients During Pregnancy

Tips for both the pregnant patient and the pregnant clinician

Course description:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and American Dental Association both state that preventive, diagnostic, and restorative dental treatment are safe during pregnancy. Despite ample evidence that dental care during pregnancy is safe, confusion still surrounds the topic of treating patients during pregnancy; resulting in an oral health care disparity among pregnant women in the US. This course will review the current evidence for the safe delivery of oral health care for your pregnant patients and the safety of delivering oral health care for the pregnant provider.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the hormonal changes during pregnancy
2. Recognize the oral health changes that take place during pregnancy
3. Preparing dental patients for pregnancy
4. Examine the barriers to oral care
5. Discuss the risks that can be passed on to the child
6. Increase awareness of the unique circumstances that may present for female dental professionals during pregnancy and their workplace rights
7. Investigate homecare options to prevent and treat oral health concerns during pregnancy

Length: 1 or 2 hours

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Puberty, Pregnancy and Menopause: Oral health throughout the lifespan of women

Course description: Different stages in women's lives may cause them to be more susceptible to oral health problems. Puberty, pregnancy and menopause are three of the stages that women have a greater risk of having oral health concerns due to changes in hormone levels. Some of the problems women may experience during these life stages are gingivitis, periodontitis, xerostomia, tooth mobility, tooth loss and tooth decay. This course will provide an overview of these three life stages and review how dental professionals can come along side of patients to provide optimal oral health throughout the lifespan.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the hormonal changes during puberty, pregnancy and menopause.
2. Recognize the oral health concerns that occur because of hormonal changes.
3. Examine safe and effective oral health care to women in each unique stage of life.
4. Investigate homecare education throughout each unique stage of life.
5. Increase awareness of the unique circumstances that may present for female dental professionals during different life stages –i.e. pregnancy, maternity leave and nursing, and the workplace rights that are in place to ensure a safe working environment for the oral health provider.

Length: Can be tailored to 2 or 3 hours

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Unraveling Floss: Separating Fact from Fantasy

Course description: Do you have patients that cannot or will not use string floss? Data indicates that less than 30% of our patients floss and even less can do it a level that attains a health benefit. This leaves a great number of our patients at risk for future or worsening periodontal disease and potential systemic health effects. Therefore, finding a product that a patient will like and use daily is essential. This course will review the number of products available for interdental cleaning and help dental professionals recommend the product best suited for a person's individual needs, wants, abilities, and lifestyle

Topics covered:

- Dental floss/floss holders
- Interdental brushes
- Wooden sticks/toothpicks
- Water Flossers
- Safety

Learning objectives:

- Explain the facts and fallacies surrounding string floss
- Understand what constitutes a systematic review and its role in evidence-based care
- Discuss the safety and efficacy of string floss, interproximal brushes, wooden sticks, toothpicks and water flossing
 - Recommend with confidence, products based on individual need and ability

Length: Can be tailored to 1 or 2 hours

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Dealing with Difficult People: Strategies for Managing, Patients, Co-workers, Bosses

Course description: Do you have a patient that you feel you can never please? A co-worker/employee who always seems to have an attitude? Or a boss who pressures and challenges you at every turn? You are not alone. Everyone has had to face the challenge of dealing with a difficult person. This course will help you develop effective strategies to help you feel more confident and empowered to take control, manage the situation, and have a more enjoyable work life.

Topics covered:

- Confidence
- Personal presence/body language
- Learning to say no
- Responding vs reacting
- Dealing with conflict
- Workplace rights

Learning objectives:

- Understand the benefits of responding vs reacting
- Identify strategies to maintain poise and self-control
- Discover the role of presence in developing confidence and personal empowerment
- Discuss learning ways to say no for greater patient influence
- Explain workplace rights

Length: Can be tailored to 1 or 2 hours

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