

**ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

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BODEX UPDATE

I recently attended a special session at the Western Region Conference entitled, "The Good, Bad and Ugly" which was geared toward licensees who have practiced ten years or less. The purpose was to inform licensees about the Dental Board's complaint process and how to satisfy patients. Unfortunately, some licensees are not proactive in knowing the Dental Practice Act until they receive a complaint. The panel, composed of Drs. Roda, Olsen and Margetis provided an excellent overview and acknowledged that as part of doing business, most licensees may experience a Board complaint or a malpractice claim.

Recently, Dr. Michel Hauer and I attended the American Association of Dental Board (AADB) meeting in Chicago. The President of the American Dental Association, Dr. Charles H. Norman, shared that he foresees more board complaints being filed due to the current environment. Arizona is already experiencing this. In part, he stated that consumers expect more for less and the relationship with the dental provider is changing due to a variety of factors.

Today's environment is more litigious and licensees must not only be aware of the Dental Practice Act requirements but also understand their malpractice coverage. As I have previously reported, several times per week I suggest to licensees to contact their carrier to answer questions regarding policies on record storage, templates to terminate a patient, or even a difficult ethical situation.

Speaking of litigation, at the AADB meeting, attendees received an update on the North Carolina Dental Board case with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The Supreme Court will be hearing this case sometime in 2014. Many organizations, including the American Medical Association, have filed amicus briefs because of the concern about the FTC's jurisdiction over state regulatory boards for writing and enforcing regulatory statutes. To date, the North Carolina Dental Board has spent over \$2.5 million in legal fees.

A good review of Arizona's Dental Practice Act is available by retaking the Jurisprudence exam online. The exam is pass/fail on each question and forces (encourages) licensees to read the actual statute. There is a \$35.00 fee for this but the good news is that it can count toward your continuing education.

The Board met on April 11, 2014 and took some of the following actions:

- Accepted two interim voluntary suspensions of licensees
- Approved eight disciplinary consent agreements
Four of which were related to implants
- Approved nine non-disciplinary consent agreements
Three agreements ordered crown and bridge continuing education
(crown and bridge continues to be one of the most frequent complaints the Board receives)
- Approved seven letters of concern
Six of these related to **DOCUMENTATION**
- Approved seven cases being terminated per patient letter
- Conducted two formal interviews and referred the cases to the Office of Administrative Hearings
- Summarily suspended one licensee for failure to comply with an interim board order

Board agenda and minutes are available online at www.azdentalboard.us.

Thank you for your ongoing support and if your renewal is due, we encourage you to avail the online renewal process!