

Newsletter

Oklahoma Academy of General Dentistry
An organization of Dental Professionals Prescribing
“Quality Care Through Learning”

Summer 2010



- AGD Annual Meeting
- Hot Topics
- Practice Management
- Upcoming Events

AGD Annual Meeting 2010: New Orleans

The AGD 2010 Annual Meeting July 6-11, in New Orleans was a great success. The House of Delegates met to address many important issues facing the Academy. In addition to the great CE and professional camaraderie the first ever dental outreach was held. The outreach program was “Nation of Smiles, One Smile at a Time”. This program was held in conjunction with the Louisiana State Dental School.

This program provided care to hundreds of un-served and underserved Louisiana residents. This program was made possible through the AGD Foundation with support from the AGD.



The Times-Picayune
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Author: [unreadable]

RELIEF FOR THE TEETH



Dr. Robert
Hess
is
the
chief
of
dentistry
at
LSU
Dental
School
in
New
Orleans.
He
is
one
of
the
doctors
who
participated
in
the
outreach
program
at
LSU
Dental
School.
The
program
was
made
possible
through
the
AGD
Foundation
with
support
from
the
AGD.

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Congratulations, AGD Fellowship and Mastership awardees

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations to all of the new 2010 Fellows, Masters, and Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition (LLSR) recipients. All of these awardees have worked hard to earn these distinguished awards. This year, the AGD welcomed 88 new [Masters](#), 239 new [Fellows](#), and 36 new [LLSR](#) recipients. Congratulations!

Invisalign Update

Align Technology announced its invisalign proficiency guidelines June 2, 2009. The guidelines stated a dentist would be required to start 10 cases per year in order to be allowed to use the product at all. Many dentists voiced grievances in response to these guidelines. Many who had recently completed the course felt betrayed by the additional requirements. More than 1500 AGD members individually voiced their opinions directly to Align while most members expressed a strong opposition to the new guidelines. Members also raised other questions including allegations of inaccuracy in Align's provider listings. In general, dentists were appalled by a corporation setting a sales quota on dental treatment. On behalf of its members, the AGD engaged in negotiations with Align and researched possible legal action. In late 2009, the AGD sent a letter to the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) to inform them of this matter. Members also responded individually. With this call to action Dr. David Halpern AGD President, and the AGD Board communicated with Mr. Thomas Prescott, President and CEO Align Technology. Several communications were made and Align announced in late April 2010 that it has dropped the patient case start quota from its 2010 Invisalign Proficiency Requirements. To read more please visit Aligns FAQ page.

At the AGD Annual Meeting many practitioners were concerned about the mid level provider issues. The AGD is continuing to keep this a top priority on behalf of the general dentist.

New Web Page

AGD Patient Alerts service includes a Web page where you can display practice details and patient reviews and testimonials without maintaining your own site, or in addition to your existing site.



What Matters to General Dentists?

AGD surveyed constituent presidents and legislative chairs to see what's happening in their respective states. From that survey here are the following results:

- 76%** of those who responded are concerned with fee capping by insurance carriers, allowing those carriers to set fees for dental services they do not cover. At least 35% of states introduced legislation this spring to prohibit insurance companies from engaging in this practice.
 - 65%** are concerned with expanding the functions of dental assistants. While most general dentists are in favor of allowing assistants and hygienists to practice outside of the dental office setting all are interested in requiring some specific considerations.
 - 59%** are concerned about Medicaid funding for oral health care.
 - 41%** are concerned about the maldistribution of dentists within the state.
 - 25%** are concerned about the composition of their respective state dental boards and ensuring that general dentistry is fairly represented.
- Other areas of concern were funding for dental schools, anesthesia and sedation guidelines, fluoridation, amalgam, and small business issues.

AGD 2010 Tracked Legislative Activity in Oklahoma

Oklahoma has introduced legislation to prohibit insurance carriers from capping fees on non-covered services. To encourage your legislators to pass this important bill, take action by contacting your state senator.

OK H 2593 (2010): Relates to professions and occupations; relates to the State Dental Act; modifies permit to operate a dental laboratory; allows the Board of Dentistry to inspect laboratory prior to the issuance of a permit; requires laboratory to make certain information available to designated parties; provides an effective date.

Status: Signed by the Governor into law on 4/19/2010

OK S 2051: Relates to insurance; specifies certain contract requirements for services rendered by a dentist; defines terms, provides for codifications; provides an effective date.

Status: Signed by Governor and became law on 4/19/2010

OK H 3365 (2010): Relates to professions and occupations; relates to The State Dental Act; modifies penalties for violation; provides an effective date.

Use of Digital Equipment by Dentists

In Maryland, the legislature is considering Senate Bill (S.B.) 664, which would prohibit the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) from imposing a fine on a dental office or dental facility for a violation without written notice under specified circumstances. Dentists feel this bill is necessary in order to stop the MDE from arbitrarily fining dentists for X-ray violations. The Radiological Health Division of the MDE changed its policies in 2008, and one of the many changes was abolishing the 20-day grace period that allowed dentists to fix X-ray problems before being fined. The department now states that the MDE will no longer be an inspection service but an enforcement agency when it comes to radiological inspections of dental offices. Dentists are now being fined for violations, often for inspections that occurred months or, in several instances, over a year earlier.

This ruling caused the AGD to consider other states' violation rules as well as dentists' use of digital radiographs. Leaders in all 50 states were asked to let the AGD know about their states' inspections rules for dental X-ray equipment, the approximate rate of noncompliance for X-ray equipment violations, and the approximate percentage of offices in their state that have converted to digital X-rays and eliminated darkrooms. Approximately 20 states responded, and the rate of inspections and amount of the fines (if any) varied greatly by state. The use of digital radiographs varied as well, ranging from less than 25 percent in some states to more than 75 percent in others.

As AGD members continue to review which type of equipment is best for them, the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (AAOMR) has solicited the AGD for three general dentists to participate on a task force to develop a position paper on caries imaging. The AGD Dental Practice Council, through its Access & Public Health Subcommittee, recommended Robert Margolin, DDS, FAGD, Willis "Stan" Hardesty, DDS, FAGD, and Samantha Shaver, DMD, FAGD, to participate in this collaborative opportunity. Similarly, the AAOMR will select three of its members for the task force. The task force will be charged to complete the project within one year, with a focus on developing positions on the imaging of caries. The AGD will have the opportunity to adopt the position paper as House of Delegates (HOD) policy upon completion. In addition, the National Health Information Infrastructure—a federal initiative set forth to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and overall quality of health and health care in the United States—will require all dental offices to go digital by 2014.

The state of Oklahoma has introduced legislation to prohibit insurances carriers' from capping fees on non-covered services

OAGD is now on Facebook

Please Visit....

Congratulations to the OUCOD Class of 2010

Academy of General Dentistry Student of the Year for OUCOD is Daniel E. Morris, DDS, pictured with his wife Annie.

Susan Davis DDS, OAGD President Elect attended the Senior Honor Dinner and presented the AGD award on June 4th.



Practice Management

THIRD PARTY PAYERS

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) offers assistance to our members when they experience third party payer problems. Common terms and phrases for the services AGD will assist members in contesting include:

Refund of an overpayment

Denial of a claim for lack of dental necessity

Down-coding

Bundling of submitted claims

If you are an AGD member and have a third party complaint or have other questions or concerns regarding a third party mechanism, please contact the AGD's Director, Advocacy, Srin Varadarajan, Esq., at 888.243.3368, extension 4973, or dentalcare@agd.org, or complete and send the [Complaint Reporting Form](#).

AGD services shall not constitute legal advice and shall not replace consultation with your attorney, but we hope that you'll find our services to be a valuable new asset to you and your practice

Upcoming Events

**Details coming soon
for the 2010 OAGD
participation course**



Save the Dates:

July 26 to 28, 2011: AGD House of Delegates

July 28 to 31, 2011: AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits

