

16 August 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: USAF Preventive Dentistry Officers

FROM: Gary C. Martin, Col, USAF, DC

Military Consultant to the USAF Surgeon General for Dental Public Health

SUBJECT: Preventive Dentistry Update #26

### **1. 2011 Preventive Dentistry Course.**

The USAF Preventive Dentistry Course will be held at the Dunn Dental Clinic, Lackland AFB Texas from 16-20 April 2012. The 2011 Course attendees included dental officers, military and civilian hygienists. The energy and professionalism of all the attendees enhanced the course significantly. The attendees shared the strengths and weaknesses of their preventive dentistry programs and many of their presentations can be found on the Dental Public Health (Preventive Dentistry) Knowledge Exchange (KX)\*\*. Topics that are covered at the course include the responsibilities of the director/chief for preventive dentistry, caries risk assessment, management of the high caries risk patients, evidence-based dentistry, nutrition, tobacco cessation, dental population health metrics, and prevention in pediatric dentistry. There are 15 funded quotas that are distributed throughout the USAF. There are a limited number of locally funded slots (5) available for this course which will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. Those individuals interested in attending the 2012 Preventive Dentistry Course using local funds should contact Col Angela Montellano, Chief Dental Operations Division, AFMOA-SGDD by email at [angela.montellano@us.af.mil](mailto:angela.montellano@us.af.mil) or phone DSN 969-9887/Com 210-395-9887.

\*\*Link to Prev Dent KX <https://kx.afms.mil/kxweb/dotmil/kj.do?functionalArea=DentalPubHealth>

**2. Dental Officers Selected for Training in Dental Public Health.** The USAF Dental Education Board convened in October 2010 and selected two outstanding dental officers for training in Dental Public Health, Lt Col Aida Solivan-Ortiz and Lt Col Kate Morganti. They started their two-year residency in Dental Public Health in June/July of 2011. Lt Col Solivan-Ortiz is at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas and Lt Col Morganti is at the Uniformed Services University at Bethesda Maryland. Upon completion of the two-year residency these dental officers will be awarded an AFSC of 47G3D. Dental Public Health is one of the eight recognized specialties by the ADA and successful completion of the residency is a requirement to be eligible to challenge the American Board of Dental Public Health. The field of Dental Public Health encompasses many areas of dentistry including preventive dentistry, infection control, epidemiology, research methods, manpower modeling, population/community health, quality assurance/risk management. The two-year residency includes one year in obtaining a Master's in Public Health (MPH) and than a second year at an ADA Accredited Dental Public Health Residency completing two research projects. If you have any questions please contact Col Gary Martin at DSN 285-6972.

### **3. Dental Population Health Metrics 2009-2011.**

There have been several data/computer issues with the dental population health metrics from August 2009 through January 2011. We apologize for the disruption of these important metrics that assist us to better manage the oral health of our USAF personnel. The issues have been resolved and the updated reports for FY 2011 will be posted to the Kx (October 2010 through current month) during August 2011. The password protected monthly dental population health metrics for April

and May 2011, that include the lists of patients that are at high risk for dental caries; PSR 4 patients; exam older than 15months; and missing population health metrics, have already been distributed to each DTF. Due to the fact that the patient lists become dated quite quickly, if requested, AFMOA will forward to the DTF's the dental population health metrics for March 2011. We expect that the distribution of the metrics will now occur on a regular schedule for each of the remaining months for FY 2011 and into the future.

Over the past nine years there has been an increase in the number of USAF personnel who do **not** use tobacco from 73.3% in FY 2001 to 77.1% in May 2011. The percentage of smokers has decreased from 22% in FY 2001 to 17.0% in May 2011, this is great news! However, the percentage of smokeless tobacco users has increased from 4.0% in FY 2001 to 5.0% in May 2011 and there has been a similar increase in those who use both smokeless tobacco and smoke. Please ensure that all dental providers educate these individuals as to the risks of using tobacco and encourage them to stop.

Each USAF Dental Clinic should use their monthly Population Health Metrics to target their prevention efforts. The metrics can also be used to monitor trends for dental caries, periodontal disease and tobacco use. The metrics can also be used when reporting on the oral health status of the base's active duty population to the Population Health Committee. If you have any questions concerning Dental Population Health Metrics please contact Col Gary Martin at Commercial (301) 319-6972 or DSN 285-6972 or email [gary.martin@usuhs.mil](mailto:gary.martin@usuhs.mil)

#### **4. Management of High Caries Risk Patients (HCR)**

To properly manage a population of high caries risk patients each USAF dental clinic should be tracking the current status of these patients. CDA has a specific section for managing the HCR patients that should be very helpful in identifying these patients and also tracking their status in completion of the treatment protocol. The USAF HCR Treatment Protocol, that is an attachment to the Preventive Dentistry Update #24, should still be placed in the patient's dental health record and completed as treatment is provided.

The monthly dental population health metrics that each DTF receives from AFMOA should also be used to verify that all the HCR patients have been correctly identified in CDA. If there are HCR individuals who are on the dental population health metrics HCR list and not on the HCR Clinic Report in CDA they can be added manually into CDA by the HCR Administrator for your DTF. If you have any questions please email both TSgt Lisa Chloros [lisa.m.chloros@us.army.mil](mailto:lisa.m.chloros@us.army.mil) and the CDA Help Desk [cda.dencom@amedd.army.mil](mailto:cda.dencom@amedd.army.mil) or phone them at DSN 421-0941. The monthly dental population health metrics for each base will provide the names and total number of active duty who are HCR patients and CDA should identify how many are actually participating/enrolled in the dental clinic's HCR protocol. The percentage of active duty that initially elects to enroll in the HCR program should be above 50%.

There are many products to choose from when providing fluoride varnish and xylitol chewing gum or mints. Currently there are no clinical research results to support one fluoride varnish being more effective than others; however all should be a 5.0% NaF varnish product. For those specific teeth that have been treatment planned for re-mineralization therapy, documentation should be provided in the dental record as to the clinical outcome. To be most effective xylitol should be the listed as the first ingredient on the packaging information and should be used at least 3 times per day for five minutes, usually after meals.

There continues to be some confusion as to what Dental Readiness Class patients who are participating in the HCR program should be assigned. When HCR patients have all their oral health needs completed to include placement of sealants, fluoride treatments, and only need a recall exam they can be updated to Class 1. This is noted in the USAF Treatment Protocol Form for HCR patients at section 6 and 7. HCR patients who do not participate in the program are updated to

Class 1 when all their oral health needs have been completed. Please note that only a dentist can authorize class changes.

#### **5. 2009 Listing of Preventive Dentistry Teams.**

The most current listing of the Director/Chief of Preventive Dentistry for each USAF Dental Clinic can be found on the Dental Public Health (Preventive Dentistry) KX at the following URL:

<https://kx.afms.mil/kxweb/dotmil/kj.do?functionalArea=DentalPubHealth>

**Many of the names on the Kx are not correct. Please review the list and make sure your respective Dental Clinic has the correct names.** If you have updates for your Dental Clinic's Preventive Dentistry Team members please email or call Col Gary Martin.

If you have any questions please contact me at [gary.martin@usuhs.mil](mailto:gary.martin@usuhs.mil) or DSN 285-6972.

//Signed//

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