

15 November 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR USAF Preventive Dentistry Officers

FROM: Consultant for Dental Public Health

SUBJECT: Preventive Dentistry Update # 21

1. 2005 Preventive Dentistry Course. The Preventive Dentistry Course will be held at the Dunn Dental Clinic, Lackland AFB, Texas from 11-15 April 2005. Topics to be covered at the course include caries risk assessment, management of the high caries risk patient, periodontal risk factors, oral cancer screening exams, minimally invasive dentistry, responsibilities of the preventive dentistry officer, fluoride and new techniques for caries diagnosis, dentistry in a deployed environment, smokeless tobacco lesions, prophylaxis technician training, tobacco cessation, dental population health metrics and prevention in pediatric dentistry. There are 15 funded quotas that have been distributed to the commands. There are a limited number of locally funded slots (10) available for this course which will be given on a first come first serve basis. Those individuals interested in attending using local funds should contact Lt Col Thad Chamberlain, Dental Education Officer, HQ AFPC/DPAMD by e-mail thaddeus.chamberlain@randolph.af.mil or DSN 665-0645.

2. Population Health Metrics. Please take the time to visit the Dental Population Health website at:

<https://kx.afms.mil/ctb/groups/dotmil/documents/afms/knowledgejunction.hcst?functionalarea=DentalPopHealth&checkinform=AFMS&doctype=home>

This website displays excellent examples of short presentations that can be used at Commanders Call to educate our personnel on how to prevent oral disease and improve their overall health and readiness. Col Bartoloni is now providing each base with a monthly update of the population health metrics for their active duty personnel. This information can be used to target prevention efforts by identifying which squadrons have the largest numbers of individuals at high risk for dental caries, periodontal disease and tobacco use. This information can also be used as individual patient action lists to streamline intervention efforts at the patient level. Each DTF can use the data to manage their high caries risk program and to ensure that all patients with at least one sextant that is PSR 4 receive a complete periodontal evaluation within 30 days. If you have any questions on how to use these metrics, please contact Col Joe Bartoloni at DSN 240-3013 or by e-mail Joseph.Bartoloni@brooks.af.mil

3. Current Events in Preventive Dentistry. Over the past few months some exciting events have occurred that I believe will make a difference in improving the oral health of our population. On June 16, 2004 AETC changed the AETC Instruction 36-2216, "Administration of Military Standards and Discipline Training," so that tobacco use and possession are no longer allowed for non-prior-service technical training students at any time while on base or in uniform. Purchasing tobacco products has also become more difficult. AAFES officials are supporting the command's initiative by removing tobacco products from shopettes located in designated technical training areas. Student troop stores at Lackland, Keesler and Sheppard AFBs have removed these products. This effort demonstrates that Air Force leadership is serious in making our Airmen a healthy and fit force.

All Preventive Dentistry Officers must closely monitor the water fluoridation program if their base is adding fluoride to the water. Please review the levels of fluoride as reported by the water testing personnel (engineers/bioenvironmental) to ensure that the optimal level of fluoride

is being maintained. The range is 0.7-1.2 ppm depending on the annual average maximum daily air temperature for your location.

4. **Farewell.** I want to thank all of you for your support over the past seven years in improving the oral health of our Air Force population. Each year as I met with the attendees of the Preventive Dentistry Course, I was encouraged by the enthusiasm they exhibited toward the prevention and management of oral disease. I look forward to great progress over the next few years in our mission to optimize the oral health and readiness of our beneficiaries. I encourage you to provide the same level of support for the new AF/SG Consultant for Dental Public Health, Lt Col Susan Mongeau. She can be contacted at smongeau@usuhs.mil or DSN 285-6972.

If you have any questions please contact me at gary.martin@tma.osd.mil or DSN 681-0039. Preventive Dentistry Updates #17, 18, 19 and 20 are available at the following website <http://www.usuhs.mil/tscchs/usafnews3.htm>

/Signed/

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For Dental Public Health