Report examines mid-level provider states, considers nationwide concept

ADHA: ‘Hygienists are educated, licensed and prepared to be a part of the solution’

On June 30, The Pew Charitable Trusts released a report that included examples of mid-level dental providers in Minnesota and Alaska performing routine preventive and restorative care to underserved populations and the benefits those services could have nationwide to those requiring oral health care.

The state of Maine also recently passed legislation allowing a dental hygienist or an independent practice dental hygienist to become a dental hygiene therapist. Maine and Minnesota, as well as tribal lands in Alaska, have moved forward to address their access-to-care challenges and now recognize these oral health workforce models.

Currently, 37 states allow the public to directly access the oral health-care services of a dental hygienist in at least one practice setting. In California, a dental hygienist with an advanced license, in certain pilot situations, can work under remote supervision to perform a variety of services in schools and nursing homes, including X-rays, sealants and interim therapeutic restorations.

The state of Oregon also allows hygienists to perform certain services under remote supervision. Several states, including Washington, New Mexico, Kansas and Vermont, are currently deliberating dental hygiene-based mid-level workforce proposals that would allow registered dental hygienists with additional education and experience the opportunity to help meet the public’s oral health needs.

New Hampshire and North Dakota are among states that are studying alternative workforce models.

The profession of dental hygiene is on the cusp of transformation and is committed to improving access to oral health care through the integration of dental hygienists into the health-care delivery system as essential primary care providers,” Swanson Jaecks said. “The ADHA supports oral health-care workforce models that culminate in graduated professional licensure and direct access to patient care.”

The ADHA is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of more than 185,000 dental hygienists across the country.

Dental hygienists provide educational, clinical and therapeutic services that support total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.

For more information about the ADHA, oral hygiene and the link between oral health and general health, visit the ADHA at www.adha.org.

(Source: ADHA)

Fall for Smiles campaign spreads message about the importance of oral health

Brushing, flossing, healthy eating and regular dental visits are explained as key to a healthy smile

According to a recent Oral Health America (OHA) survey, two Americas are emerging when it comes to oral health care. Those with a household income of under $50,000, including many who live in urban areas and young adults (including students), are more likely to skip or delay a dental visit, with 74 percent of those surveyed delaying care for financial reasons or due to lack of insurance coverage.

That’s why OHA’s Fall for Smiles campaign is so important this year. Every September and October, the campaign teaches Americans about the importance of maintaining a healthy smile by brushing and flossing daily, regularly visiting their dentist for checkups and maintaining good overall health.

To help dental professionals and families participate in the annual Fall for Smiles campaign, OHA has several materials available on the Fall for Smiles website. To engage and educate children, the website features an activity booklet, coloring page, brushing chart and tip sheet designed to help make caring for teeth fun.

Photo/Provided by Oral Health America

• See SMILES, page C2
Phopy paste is 1.23 percent fluoride ion and promises splatter-free application

**Keystone’s Gelato comes in six flavors**

By Keystone Industries Staff

Dental professionals can spend copious amounts of time searching for a prophylactic paste that does it all.

A paste considered to be ideal would be one that works well for the dentist, does its job in patients’ mouths and enables patients to leave the office with a good taste. With Gelato prophylactic paste by Keystone, the possibilities have no limits.

The paste, which provides a smooth, splatter-free application, is 1.23 percent fluoride ion and will leave a patient’s teeth with excellent polish—and stains removed. Minimal enamel loss is met with each use.

**Review: ‘Top Prophy Paste’**

One of the biggest bragging rights Gelato prophylactic paste has earned is from The Dental Advisor. For two consecutive years (2013 and 2014), Keystone’s paste won Top Prophy Paste. In the review, based on more than 2,500 uses with 35 consultants, it earned a 4.5 grade out of 5 based on more than 2,500 uses with 35 consultants, it earned a 4.5 grade out of 5.

The ranking would appear to confirm how the paste gets the clinical job done and also provides patients with the flavor options to leave their mouth feeling fresh and clean.

Coming in four different grits (fine, medium, coarse and x-course), Gelato has a wide range of uses for removing stains. Dental hygienists normally use the fine grit for routine work, and work their way up the grit scale for heavier stain removals. Whether it is an easy or tough job, dental professionals can always count on the quality of Gelato to get the job done.

**A flavor for every taste**

Keystone’s Gelato comes in six flavors—bubble gum, cherry, mint, pina colada, orange sherbert and raspberry. The paste is available in 6- and 12-ounce jars, and also boxes of 200 individual cups.

To order, visit Keystone Industries online at www.keystoneind.com/en/home or contact your authorized dealer.
New ergonomic hygiene handpiece designed for optimum comfort

Young Dental’s design includes contra-angled connector

Designed to fit the contours of the hygienist’s hand, the new Young Hygiene Handpiece delivers the ergonomic comfort and control clinicians need during polishing.

The first hygiene handpiece ever made by Young Dental is designed with a unique contra-angled connector, which attaches the handpiece to air tubing at a 45-degree angle. This angled connection is designed to help reduce cord drag aggravation and to make the handpiece feel lighter.

Unlike straight-bodied handpieces, the Young Hygiene Handpiece is constructed with a Reverse Radius™ silhouette that’s curved to fit comfortably in the dental hygienist’s hand for a smooth, ergonomic performance. The handpiece’s engraved matte grip rotates 360 degrees to help reduce the need to shift the wrist so often during polishing.

“I loved your handpiece for its comfort. The reverse radius nestled in my hand, but most of all, the curved hose attachment and swivel made my wrist feel so much better. What a great design,” said Denise Crowell, RDH, who tested the new handpiece. “[Some other handpieces don’t] have the curved hose attachment – only the swivel, which causes fatigue. The grip was also superior and I didn’t need to use as much tension.”

The handpiece is designed for optimal performance when used with Young Dental disposable prophy angles, so clinicians can get the most out of their polishing routines. Each handpiece comes with samples of the company’s newest and most compact disposable prophy angle, Vera by Young.

When it comes to care and maintenance, the Young Hygiene Handpiece nosecone and motor easily detach into two parts for fast preparation and thorough sterilization. The handpiece is made in the United States and is backed by a two-year warranty with quality guaranteed.

You can visit www.youngdental.com for more information about the new Young Hygiene Handpiece.

‘Data Hub’ for global health

FDI World Dental Federation has launched a “data hub for global oral health,” an evolving online database of oral health statistics and indicators.

The site went live in early September with limited information but will expand and deepen in coming months.

Data is being gathered from global sources, including the World Health Organization, Niigata University, Malmö University, World Bank and Globocan. Guided by the FDI Oral Health Atlas Task Team, the site www.fdiworlddental.org/data-hub is charged with making country-by-country global oral health data easily accessible to health professionals, policy makers, the media, industry and the general public worldwide.

(Source: FDI World Dental Federation)