



SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

April 27, 2020

FREE CE Course Offerings!

As a member-only benefit, the SDDS is offering two, online, FREE Continuing Education Courses on Monday, April 27th and May 4th at 3 PM. No pre-registration is needed. Simply click on the below ZOOM link (or dial in). One CE credit hour will be given per course. Questions? Email Dr. Tom Langan at tal413@gmail.com or Dr. Joe Kelly Jr. at drkellyjr@gmail.com.

April 27th Course **Avoiding third party claim rejection**

An overview of common mistakes made by dental offices when submitting claims to insurance carriers from the perspective of a dental consult.

Dr. Joe Lucchesi has 36 years experience practicing clinical dentistry at a Federally Qualified Health Center and private practice. He is a past consultant for HRSA, currently an independent consultant for several major insurance companies, including state Medicaid and Medicare programs. He is a member of the American Association of Dental Consultants.

Dr. Lucchesi has offered to take any questions you would like addressed during the webinar at jlucchesidmd@yahoo.com

ZOOM Information:

Topic: Common Insurance Claim Mistakes and Tips CE
Time: Apr 27, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117888154?pwd=SnNwazZ6eUdLUVI3WkpVR0Nta2RaQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 1788 8154
Password: 083133

May 4th Course **Multidisciplinary treatment of the mutilated dentition**

The basic and main objective of dental education was and is treating and saving patients' natural dentition. The concept of Penn periodontal prosthesis has been advocated the necessity of a comprehensive and multi discipline integrated approach for successful treatment and reconstruction of pathologically mutilated dentition. The concept applies from single tooth treatment to full mouth rehabilitation. Dental treatment must be patient orientated and occlusion driven for the most effective and efficient method in providing the comfort to our patients. The presentation will review how the concept is applied and has changed to adapt to the era of implant dentistry that we live today.

Yongkun Kim, DMD, our presenter, graduated from University of Sao Paulo College of Dentistry for his DDS and University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine for his DMD. He further pursued education at Penn, completing post doctoral training in Periodontics, implantology



and Periodontal Prosthesis. He Served Penn Dental Medicine as clinical assistant professor of Restorative Dentistry and PCU leader on undergraduate dental education. Currently Dr. Kim serves at University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine as a clinical assistant professor of graduate periodontics and periodontal prosthesis. Dr. Kim has a private practice in Jenkintown, PA.

ZOOM Information:

Topic: Multidisciplinary Treatment of the Mutilated Dentition
Time: May 4, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82517042053?pwd=VHRKbjJOWCtYTTJJEYWptNy9uSmhpUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 1704 2053
Password: 494756

Alert Your Legislator!!!

The following letter is a template which may then be sent to legislators as a reminder of the ever-present need for dentistry in our communities and the potential lack of DOH recommended armamentarium to keep dental health care providers safe.



Dear Legislator,

Dentistry has always provided a vital service for the residents of Pennsylvania. In this difficult time, the dentists/constituents of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Columbia, Wyoming, and Carbon counties are significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Currently, we are treating the emergent needs of our patients in order to reduce the burden on local hospital emergency departments; and because many of us have donated our personal inventory of PPE to local hospitals we are working with limited supplies. As the mitigation process continues and our offices are closed to routine care, the number of emergent patients is growing and creating further strain on the amount of available provisions.

A member of our dental society's executive committee recently asked Congressman Cartwright for help in procuring PPE for his oral surgery practice. As we are sure you are aware, dentists and dental specialists are considered first responders in the fight against Coronavirus. Our local and district dental societies represent nearly 500 dentists in Northeastern Pennsylvania, as well as the thousands of dental personnel we employ. This letter is our plea for help to re-establish our ability to see all of the patients who need dental care and recommendations for procuring PPE for our safety.

As was mentioned, most dentists have and will continue to contribute whatever they can to those on the front line, hospitals, or those in need, so any government directive to do so is not only unnecessary, but misdirected when it comes to us.

As we continue with this critical health care service and when we begin to return to work, we must keep office staff, assistants, patients and doctors safe. As you know, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has recommended the use of the following appropriate PPE (disposable surgical gowns, gloves, level 3 masks, N95 masks, and face shields). These supplies are in high demand and we are having difficulty acquiring them through traditional means. At this time, we are following the recommended process, asking our local Emergency Management Agencies for these vital supplies from PEMA as soon as possible.

We greatly appreciate your help and we look forward to working with you to safely bring critically needed dental healthcare to the individuals of our great state.

Sincerely,

Dentists of Third District of the Pennsylvania Dental Association

* If you would like to download a copy of this letter, simply click here: [\(web link\)](#)

A Word from VP Dr. Tom Langan

Dear Members,

The SDDS is trying to provide CE as a member benefit during these trying times. One idea floated around was a Treatment Planning CE. If you have a challenging case, you can send the X-Rays, pictures of the models, or clinical photos in, they can be arranged in a powerpoint presentation and discussed amongst the members. The cases can stay anonymous, and treatment options can be discussed. This way, when we do get back to work, we can hit the ground running. If there is interest in this idea, please submit your information to tal413@gmail.com. I will put the powerpoint together, and keep the dentists names anonymous. If there is no interest, we will have additional CE offerings coming up.

Membership Has Its Benefits

Being a member of the PDA, Third District, and Scranton District Dental Societies has always had its privileges, but being a member during these last few weeks has proven invaluable. Throughout this time, our local leaders have provided FREE Continuing Education courses, weekly ZOOM meetings, special edition newsletters, and a forum to communicate and share information about the latest developments. If you know someone who is not a member, please encourage him or her to join through the PDA and start attending our online opportunities. For more information, check out our member benefits at <https://www.scrantondental.org/about-the-sdds/membership/>

What Are You Doing?

In an effort to continue to support each other, we are asking you to join us in sharing information in REAL TIME on our private Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178351179259711/>. Know that this is a PRIVATE group for SDDS member dentists only. This information cannot be seen by the general public or staff (unless specifically invited).

Some of the information we are looking to hear about is...

- best practices
- equipment procurement
- new technologies
- how you are handling employee issues
- thoughts on reopening your practice

As we know, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has recommended appropriate PPE (disposable surgical gowns, gloves, level 3 masks, N95 masks, and face shields). We are asking our membership how YOU are managing and the steps you are taking to implement the DOH suggestions.

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Dr. Megan Azar

On 4/21/20 a virtual meeting of the board of directors for Scranton District Dental Society was held. Participants in the meeting were: Tom Langan, Cathy Salak, Justin Burns, Sam Abod, Bill Yeomans, Chris Kotchick, Chaz Dennis, Jack Gallagher, Al Matrone, Bill Dempsey, Cindy Cox, Megan Azar, Darlene Oleski, John Evans, Joe Kelly, Joe Legg, Kurt Wadsworth, Martin Bifano, Matt Zale, Stephanie Hanyon, Tony DeCarli, Michael Umerich, Joellen Drosinski, Geordie Grable, Tim McGurrin, David Clarke

Justin Burns started the meeting by reporting his experience reaching out to our congressman Cartwright regarding our significant need to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Since Dentistry is at a significant risk, he is requesting the society send a request from all members. The letter has been drafted and will be sent immediately upon approval by President Sam Abod.

Discussions followed regarding timeline and challenges in getting back to work. Concerns about staff, childcare, aerosols, PPE, and testing were all mentioned. Some possible solutions were offered regarding

air filtration, controlling aerosols, staggering appointments, lengthening appointment times, and the use of pulse oximeters. Concern was expressed about dental supply companies marketing products without any studies completed at this point.

Since asymptomatic patients shed the virus in high concentration in the saliva, dentists MUST assume every patient is positive and be vigilant with our universal precautions as always in order to keep ourselves safe, our staff safe, and our patients safe. All members will continue researching and sharing ideas about what products and solutions are available, but we are not making any suggestions or setting guidelines at this point. These discussions will continue.

Tom Langan and Joe Kelly discussed the opportunity for CE credits with 2 different programs: 4/27 Avoiding Third Party Claim Rejection and 5/4 Multidiscipline Treatment of Extreme Cases.

These courses are open to Third District member dentists as well. See the above cover story and/or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178351179259711/> for details and class code.
