For more information, visit us at www.state.pa.us or visit the Department of State directly at www.dos.state.pa.us

Governor’s Newsletter
Sign up now at www.governor.state.pa.us to receive the weekly e-newsletter from Governor Rendell on important issues facing Pennsylvania.
Greetings! It is once again my privilege to bring to you the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry’s newsletter. As you know, the board’s charge from the governor and the legislature is to “assure the health and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” In other words, patient protection. All aspects of board activity flow from this mandate.

As you read the informative articles contained within, you will see that we have been very busy! We, as a board, are pleased to announce the long awaited establishment of a testing vehicle for EFDA permit holders. A new program will be instituting a requirement of pro bono hours as part of our sanctioning process for non-treatment related cases. This will help to ease our access to care situation in Pennsylvania. The board has been working on drafting regulations to permit the delivery of local anesthesia for hygienists and changing the ASA patient classification requirements for hygiene services.

It is a challenge and a balancing act to protect the public and to allow for increased access to care. We continue to work in a cooperative manner with the Pennsylvania Dental Association and with the Pennsylvania Academy of General Dentistry. Under strong and capable leadership, these organizations continue to represent their members well.

As we become more technologically proficient, our Web site will become a greater resource for the licensees and for the public. As licensees, you have the opportunity to renew your license online. Our percentage of online renewals continues to increase. Please visit the board’s Web site at www.dos.state.pa.us/dent.

One major development during the previous year is the practice of taking the State boards “on the road.” The board visited the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine this past fall. Commissioner Basil Merenda feels that in doing this, we will enable the boards to be more accessible and transparent. We plan to visit the University of Pittsburgh in the fall. This is also a great opportunity to allow dental students to see first hand how a state regulatory board operates.

I am at the end of my tenure on the board. It has been a tremendous pleasure to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania. My thanks and gratitude goes to the hardworking board support staff. These individuals, especially our wonderful board administrator Lisa Burns and our board counsel Cynthia Montgomery work for the licensees with endless dedication.

In conclusion, I encourage all licensees to live up to the oaths that we took before beginning our careers. Ethics play a most important role in our profession and the ethical activities of our licensees are under constant scrutiny. In all matters, take the ethical high road and look for opportunities to serve the public in your communities. You and I are the recipients of a legacy of trust in the dental profession. My work on the board shows me that our patients are in good hands.

Sexual Misconduct Regulations

By Mariellen Brickley-Raab, RDH

As chairwoman of the sexual misconduct committee, I am writing to update the licensees in the commonwealth regarding the status of the sexual misconduct regulation.

Proposed rulemaking 16A-4618 (Sexual Misconduct) has gone out for public comment. The House Professional Licensure Committee suggested the board consider adding specific examples of sexual misconduct to the proposed rulemaking. The board will be taking all of the public comments, as well as those of the House committee and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission, into consideration in drafting the final rulemaking.

As most of the licensees are aware, the sexual misconduct regulations will prohibit dentists, dental hygienists and expanded function dental assistants from engaging in any sexual conduct with a current patient. This includes words, gestures, expressions, actions or any combination thereof which are sexual in nature or which may be construed by a reasonable person as sexual in nature. Violations of the sexual misconduct regulations will subject the practitioner to disciplinary action.
Continuing Education (CE).... take it seriously

By Howard R. Tolchinsky, DMD

Continuing education (CE) has been a requirement since the 2001 renewal period. The most common matters before the board are disciplinary actions for violations of the continuing education regulations at 49 Pa. Code, §§ 33.401 - 33.404. The board’s rules and regulations are available online at www.dos.state.pa.us/dent.

Continuing education is covered under the following sections of the board’s regulations:

- Section 33.401 - Credit-hour requirements
- Section 33.402 – Continuing education subject areas
- Section 33.403 - Program sponsors
- Section 33.404 – Reporting of continuing education hours

Keeping current with rapidly changing dental technology is imperative in the delivery of safe and appropriate care. You’ve heard it before: “As a professional, you should never stop learning.” We must continue to learn and implement this knowledge throughout our professional lives.

The CE requirement spans a two-year period from April 1 to March 31 of consecutive odd number year biennial renewal periods. You must have completed your CE requirement for the previous period before applying for your license for the next period. If you have not completed the required credits and audited by the board, you are subject to disciplinary action.

Check the certification box on the license renewal form only if you have attended or completed the required 20/30 credit hours of continuing education during the previous two-year period from April 1 to March 31 in acceptable courses obtained through approved program sponsors with no more than 50 percent of the credits obtained through individual study. Falsifying your renewal application subjects you to disciplinary action under section 4.1(a)(3) of the Dental Law, 63 P.S. §123.1(a)(3), for making a false or deceptive biennial renewal with the board. You may also receive a reprimand that is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank and will remain there for the rest of your professional life.

The board views violation of the CE requirement as a serious infraction and so should you. Please be certain to obtain the correct number of credits from acceptable providers on clinically relevant subjects in the proper format, which is a minimum 50 percent lecture or clinical presentation and the remainder in self-study. Also, remember that the CPR requirement does not count toward CE hours, and retain CE records for a minimum of four years.

ATTENTION ALL EFDA Temporary Permit Holders
by John V. Reitz, DDS

The process of selecting an examining agent has come to an end. In December, the state committee awarded the EFDA exam contract to PSI (Psychological Services Inc.). The process of choosing a company to administer the EFDA exam was long and involved. All interested examining parties were asked to submit their credentials and proposals to our committee for evaluation. The committee independently graded the proposals and narrowed the list to three final agencies. At a separate meeting, representatives from each of the final three agencies were separately interviewed by the committee. Following that interview, the committee chose PSI as the winning bidder.

By the time of this publication, the dates for publication of the study guide and exam administration should be established. All EFDA permit holders will receive notification of the process based on the address on record with the board office. Therefore, if you employ an EFDA permit holder, please advise them to notify the board if they have a change of address to ensure that they receive notification and pertinent information relevant to the examination.
Governor Rendell's Prescription for Pennsylvania

Since 2000, the cost of family health insurance premiums has increased nearly 76 percent, while the increase in wages has increased just more than 13 percent. During the same time, inflation has grown 17 percent. If health care premiums continue to rise at six times the rate of inflation or wages, the health care system in Pennsylvania as we know it will disappear. The problem affects every Pennsylvanian, every Pennsylvania business and every Pennsylvania taxpayer.

There are also 767,000 uninsured adults and 133,000 uninsured children in Pennsylvania and just because they are uninsured doesn’t mean they don’t get sick and need health care services. Unfortunately, they often receive those services in very expensive emergency rooms because they have nowhere else to turn. Ultimately, we all pay for those services and it drives up the cost of health insurance for everyone. In fact, 6.5 percent of every Pennsylvanian’s health insurance premium goes toward covering the cost of the uninsured. In addition, charges in 2005 for services resulting from unnecessary and avoidable health care costs, including hospital acquired infections, medical errors and avoidable hospitalizations for chronic disease totaled $7.6 billion.

Governor Edward G. Rendell has proposed a health care reform plan that will Cover All Pennsylvanians, Cover All Kids and comprehensively reform and repair our broken health care system with an aggressive Prescription for Pennsylvania.

The Prescription for Pennsylvania is a set of integrated, achievable, practical strategies focused on driving down costs, providing access to universal coverage, improving the quality of health care and driving down the inefficiencies of the health care system.

Its many initiatives will drive major costs out of the system, while improving efficiency of delivery of services and quality. These are proven private sector approaches modeled on proven private sector solutions for cost containment and quality improvement. Both employers and individuals will benefit.

In July 2006, the first piece of the Governor’s Prescription for Pennsylvania — Cover All Kids — was passed by the legislature. Cover All Kids ensures that affordable health insurance is available for all our children. With final federal approval received this summer, Pennsylvania becomes one of only a few states with such a comprehensive program.

Now attention turns to uninsured adults. The Governor’s Rx for PA proposal provides private sector access to affordable health insurance for uninsured adults through Cover All Pennsylvanians (CAP). But that alone will not affect the cost of health care for the remaining 11.6 million Pennsylvanians. That’s why CAP is only one piece of the Prescription for Pennsylvania. And that’s why the entire plan must be adopted.

Prescription for Pennsylvania puts forward common sense, workable initiatives that people are demanding. By pursuing this realistic and achievable private-sector plan, we can save billions of dollars. More importantly, we can give our working families a brighter and healthier future.

For more information on the governor’s plan, go to RxforPA.com.

Local Anesthesia for Dental Hygienists

By Mariellen Brickley-Raab, RDH

As chairwoman for the local anesthesia committee, I am writing to update licensees regarding the status of the local anesthesia regulations.

The board has unanimously concluded that local anesthesia should be added to the scope of practice for dental hygienists in the commonwealth, requiring a regulation change. The proposed rulemaking 16A-4617 (Local Anesthesia Permit) had gone out for public comment. The local anesthesia committee reviewed the comments of all interested parties, tightened some of the language and presented the final version to the board. The board has approved the proposed rulemaking, which will be published in an upcoming edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin for public comment.

The initial framework for the regulation has remained the same:
(a) Local anesthesia (block and infiltration) will be added to the scope of practice for dental hygienists to be administered under the direct supervision of a dentist;
(b) Comprehensive educational and competency documentation must be presented to the SBOD prior to a hygienist obtaining the necessary permit; and
(c) There will be no “grandfathering” — all hygienists must complete the required course of study.

Dental hygienists and dentists will continue to have the right to choose whether or not they want to provide this service in their practice. At this time, dental hygienists may NOT administer local anesthesia until the regulations have become final and the board has issued the required permit.

And again, only those hygienists who have obtained the required permit from the board will be permitted to provide local anesthesia to clients.
The Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry through the Professional Health Monitoring Programs' Voluntary Recovery Program of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs provides a method by which licensees suffering from a physical or mental impairment, such as chemical dependency, can be directed to appropriate treatment and receive monitoring to ensure they remain capable of practicing safely.

The Voluntary Recovery Program is an alternative to discipline program offered to commonwealth-licensed health care professionals. Licensees are brought to the VRP's attention from a variety of sources including individuals who self-report to the program, health care facilities, peers and colleagues, the Department of State Legal Office, the health-related licensing boards of BPOA, peer assistance programs, concerned citizens, etc.

The majority of licensed practitioners of dentistry reported to the VRP are done so by individuals who are fulfilling their mandatory reporting requirement as defined under the dental law. In an effort by the PA State Board of Dentistry to identify suspected cases of impaired professionals, Section 11.6. (f) of the dental law requires the following:

"Any hospital or health care facility, peer or colleague who has substantial evidence that a professional has an active addictive disease for which the professional is not receiving treatment, is diverting a controlled substance or is mentally or physically incompetent to carry out the duties of his or her license shall make or cause to be made a report to the board."

When a licensed practitioner is referred to the VRP, the individual is offered the opportunity to be assessed by a VRP-approved treatment provider. Only those licensees meeting criteria for a diagnosis under the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV), are considered for enrollment in the VRP.

The VRP is only offered to licensees who agree to enter into a consent agreement with the licensing board for a period of no less than three years. The consent agreement stipulates disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation, will be deferred so long as the licensee adheres to the terms and conditions of the agreement and maintains satisfactory progress in the program.

Because it is a voluntary program, licensees are provided the option of deciding whether or not they wish to cooperate with the VRP. When a licensee declines to cooperate with the requests of the VRP, the VRP reports the individual to the Department of State Legal Office for review regarding the possible initiation of formal public disciplinary procedures by the board against his or her license.

In order to ensure that there is no public record of a licensee's VRP participation, consent agreements are presented to the licensing boards for their approval with all identifying information of the licensee being redacted. Successful completion of the VRP allows for the licensee's file to be cleared of any record of disciplinary action against him or her through the process of petitioning the licensing board, once again anonymously, to have the record expunged.

While in the VRP, licensees must submit to random body fluid screening; abstain from the use of prohibited substances; comply with the recommendations made by their VRP-approved treatment provider(s); submit to monitoring of their practice by a workplace monitor; and actively attend 12-step mutual help fellowships, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or other community-based support groups approved by the VRP. Violations of the agreement may result in immediate action to remove the licensee from practice, providing for optimum protection of the public.

If you suspect a health care practitioner is suffering from an impairment, urge the individual to seek help. To report a licensed practitioner of dentistry suspected of being impaired and/or diverting controlled substances, individuals or facilities can do so by either:

- Obtaining a Statement of Complaint form by contacting the Professional Compliance Office at (800) 822-2113 or (717) 783-4849, or downloading the form from the Department of State Web site at www.dos.state.pa.us.
- Completing the online complaint form via the Department of State Web site.
- Sending a written narrative the Professional Health Monitoring Program, P.O. Box 10569, Harrisburg, PA 17105. The written complaint shall include the following: name of licensee suspected of being impaired, licensee's license number or social security number, or home address, and an overview of the event(s) precipitating the report.

For further information regarding the VRP, please contact our office at (800) 554-3428 (PA residents only) or (717) 783-4857.
Welcome Our New Board Members

Philip T. Siegel, DDS

Dr. Philip T. Siegel of Pediatric Dental Associates and Cichetti, Siegel and DelliGatti Orthodontics was appointed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry by Governor Ed Rendell and approved by the Pennsylvania Senate in August 2006. Dr. Siegel received his certificate in pediatric dentistry from Temple University in 1972. He completed his B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania and his D.D.S. degree at Temple University. After serving two years in the U.S. Army as chief of pediatric dentistry at Fort Devens, Mass., Siegel completed his orthodontic program at the University of Pennsylvania in 1976. He is board certified in both pediatric dentistry and orthodontics. He serves as the consultant to the pediatric dental director for the pediatric dental residency at Temple Children's Hospital, which he co-founded in 1995 at Episcopal Hospital. Along with his partner, Mark S. Goldstein, DDS, Siegel co-founded Special Smiles, a dental facility that provides dental care for those with special needs. He has served as the orthodontic consultant to DPW. Dr. Siegel has served the PA Dental Association (PDA) for six years on the Council of Government Relations, including three years as chair. He has been an alternate delegate for the American Dental Association (ADA) representing the First District of Pennsylvania. He has served on the Expanded Function Dental Assistants Task Force and Medical Assistance Task Force for the PDA as well as being a delegate to the PDA annual meeting. He is currently a member of the ADA’s Presidential Task Force on Workforce Issues and Access to Care. In addition, he serves on the ADA Council for Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations. Dr. Siegel is a member of the International College of Dentists and has served on the Board of Governors for the Philadelphia County Dental Society. He was formerly a board member for the Academy Charter School in Philadelphia. He and his wife Nancy, a dental hygienist, live in Blue Bell. Their daughter attends Penn State, and their sons live in New York City and London. He is active in his community through charitable endeavors. The safety, education and well-being of children of all ages has always been a priority in his professional and personal life. His hobbies include golf and motorcycling.

Timothy Gates, Esquire
Office of Attorney General

Deputy Attorney General Timothy Gates is assigned to the Health Care Section, Public Protection Division within the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, where he received his degree in international politics and received his juris doctorate from Widener University School of Law. Gates is an active member of the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Dauphin County Bar Association. Gates enjoys living in the state capital with his wife Sandra and his son Benjamin.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Nov. 30, 2007
- Jan., 2008
- March 6-7, 2008
- May 2, 2008
- June 6, 2008
- July 11, 2008

The State Board of Dentistry meets in Harrisburg. Meetings are held on Fridays, begin at 9 a.m. and are open to the public.
Public Advocacy
By Allan M. Horwitz, Esquire

Often I am asked why I, an attorney, am a member of the Pennsylvania Board of Dentistry. My response is that the Board of Dentistry, and similarly the other professional licensing boards, is required by law to have two public members. Essentially, my focus is to protect the interests of the public while attempting to maintain a fair perspective as to the dental professionals that are licensed by this board.

Having served on the board for nine years, I have learned that to be an effective public member I must ask questions, read a considerable amount of material, and know the law and regulations. Involvement with the professional members of the board in the process is critical.

As chairman of the Probable Cause Screening Committee, I am further able to protect the interests of the public by being involved in the ordering of an immediate suspension where it may appear that an imminent danger to the public exists. The Probable Cause Screening Committee also may compel a dental professional to submit to a mental or physical examination where there is concern as to the individual’s capacity to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of illness, drunkenness, excessive use of controlled substances, chemicals or any other type of material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

By virtue of my membership on the board, I also am a public member of the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners. In this capacity, I am furthering the protection of the health, welfare and safety of the public by assuring that dentists and hygienists who become licensed in the commonwealth have demonstrated that they possess the ability to deliver dental care competently and safely. The clinical licensure examination is designed to test those critical procedures a candidate is expected to encounter in the unsupervised practice of dentistry. The clinical licensing exam is designed to measure a critical level of minimal clinical competency.

I am also involved as a consumer representative to the ADEX Dental Exam Committee, which is moving toward a national dental exam.

The State Board of Dentistry:
What’s it about and how do you get there
By Richard H. Cutler, DMD

The State Board of Dentistry primary’s objective is to protect Pennsylvanians’ health, safety and welfare in the dental setting. It also ensures that the Dental Act and the regulations that it provides for, are current, reasonable, and provide guidance of our professional duties. The board is also recognized as the body that grants your professional license under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, overseen by Commissioner Basil Merenda.

Serving on the state licensing board is extended to its members, “as long as they shall behave” by a gubernatorial appointment. Once the governor makes their appointment, the Senate must confirm the appointment. The actual mechanism of appointment from the governor may come by way of, for example, recommendation from your local or state dental organization or through your involvement in the state political process.

For the professional members of the board (in addition to the two public members, appointed representatives from the Attorney General and Secretary of Health), it is another example of becoming involved in organized dentistry. While involvement on the board is different from serving on committees, task forces or commissions of your dental association, it nonetheless serves a vital part of a process that provides for our right to practice. We often fail to realize that our practice privileges are guided by certain rules and regulations that are created through a legal and legislative process, of which the board is a vital part of that process.

The board also has as one of its toughest tasks to approve or deny settlements from the prosecutorial division as a result of violations of the Dental Act. A denial is based on the facts presented to the board for either being too harsh or too lenient.

Regardless of the manner in which one gets to the board, the desire to serve the commonwealth in the capacities listed above is the common thread among all its members and is an expression of volunteer service.
Disciplinary Actions

The following is a listing of formal disciplinary or corrective measures taken by the board from Jan. 2005 through Jan. 2006. Each entry includes the name of the respondent; the respondent’s license number; the respondent’s city; the sanction imposed; a brief description of the basis for the disciplinary or corrective measure; and the effective date of the disciplinary or corrective measure.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following information is correct. However, this information should not be relied upon without verification from the board office. It should be noted that the names of persons listed below may be similar to the names of persons who have not had disciplinary or corrective measures taken against them.

Please contact the board to verify these actions and their effective dates. Official confirmation of the current status of a license or registration can be obtained by writing to: State Board of Dentistry, P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649.

Patrick Neill Boyle, license no. DS030949L, of Monaca, Beaver County, was suspended for no less than five years based on his violation of the terms of his probation. (09-16-05)

Brett N. Chapman, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was denied an application for licensure by criteria approval because he failed to demonstrate that he has met equivalent qualifications or standards for a license in this Commonwealth because he did not pass each portion of the clinical examination with a minimum score of 75%, as required by the board. (01-27-06)

Bruce Braverman, license no. DS019187L, of Thorndale, Chester County, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty for employing a person as an expanded function dental assistant without such person being certified as an expanded function dental assistant as required by the Dental Law. (03-10-06)

James C. LaJevic, license no. DS018736L, of Henderson, Nev., continues to be indefinitely suspended until he complies with the terms of the board’s March 10, 2006, order. (03-10-06)

Alyreza Asgari, license no. DS030571L, of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, was revoked because Asgari was found guilty of 42 felonies (theft by unlawful taking and criminal attempt). (05-05-06)

Rosemarie Cooley-Dugan, license no. DH009708L, of Gwynedd Valley, Montgomery County, was assessed a $200 civil penalty and ordered to complete four hours of continuing education within six months. Cooley-Dugan failed to submit proof of completion of required continuing education hours for the 2001-2003 biennial period. (05-05-06)

Steven M. Gilson, license no. DS023744L, of Plantation, Fla., was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty. Gilson had disciplinary action imposed or consented to by the proper licensing authority of another state. (05-05-06)

Jennifer A. Marakovits, license no. DH013126L, of Whitehall, Lehigh County, was required to pay a $300 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking six hours of continuing education within six months. Marakovits failed to meet the required continuing education credits by six hours for the April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2005 licensing period. (05-05-06)

Angie Maxwell, license no. DH067628, of Voorhees, N.J., was required to pay a $400 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking eight hours of continuing education within six months. Maxwell failed to meet the required continuing education credits by eight hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (05-05-06)

Brian Allen Maykovich, license no. DS028128L of Carolltown, Cambria County, was required to pay a $600 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on his board record, and he must complete the lacking eight hours of continuing education with six months. Maykovich failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 8 hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (05-05-06)

Alyssa Mohin, license no. DH011830L, of Collingswood, N.J., was assessed a $700 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking 14 hours of continuing education within six months. Mohin failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 14 hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (05-05-06)

Adrienne A. Reitman, license no. DH005826L, of Thorofare, N.J., was assessed a $700 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking 14 hours of continuing education within six months. Reitman failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 14 hours
for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (05-05-06)

Charles M. Robbins, license no. DS019140L of Orlando, Fla., was publicly reprimanded and ordered to pay a $1,000 civil penalty. Robbins was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (05-05-06)

Heather D. Rorison, license no. DS031573L of Charlotte, N.C., was indefinitely suspended for no less than five years with such suspension immediately stayed in favor of no less than five years of probation with suspension and probation retroactive to Sept. 9, 2005, based upon Rorison's compliance and continued participation in the N.C. Caring Dental Professionals Program. Rorison had her license to practice dentistry disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state and is also unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients. (05-05-06)

Samuel M. Rosenfeld, license no. DS021176L, of Bethlehem, Northampton County, was required to pay a $3,750 civil penalty. Rosenfeld had his license to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients. (05-05-06)

Stacey Marie Shorb, license no. DH007949, of Frederick, Md., was assessed a $400 civil penalty. Shorb failed to meet the required continuing education credits by eight hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (05-17-06)

Jennifer Lyn Dartois, license no. DH013455L, of Sarasota, Fla., was assessed a $150 civil penalty, received a public reprimand and was ordered to complete three credit hours of continuing education within six months, based on her failure to submit proof of completion of at least 20 hours of continuing education for the 2001-2003 biennial period. (05-17-06)

Check www.dos.state.pa.us for updated disciplinary action reports.
Disciplinary Actions

patients as a direct result of the administering of anesthesia or drugs. (06-02-06)

**C. Benson Clark**, license no. DS018505L, of Newport News, Va., was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty because his license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of the Commonwealth of Virginia. (06-09-06)

**David Fuderich**, license no. DS026430L, of Boca Raton, Fla., was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty because his license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of the Commonwealth of Virginia. (06-09-06)

**Mark David Levenson**, license no. DS023366L, of Boca Raton, Fla., was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty because his license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of the Commonwealth of Virginia. (06-09-06)

**Frank John Massioni**, license no. DS013313L, of Coraopolis, Allegheny County, was reprimanded and assessed a $750 civil penalty based upon his failure to submit proof of completion of required continuing education hours for the 2001-2003 biennial period. (06-09-06)

**Robert Rosen**, license no. D017252L, of Claysville, Washington County, was automatically suspended based on his guilty plea to a felony under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. (06-09-06)

**Deborah A. Petty**, license no. DH008099L, of Roscoe, Washington County, was suspended for a period of three years, with the suspension stayed in favor of probation, for pleading guilty to misdemeanors that involve moral turpitude. (06-15-06)

**Steve Hiep Nguyen**, license no. DS030312L, of Las Vegas, Nev., was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty and received a public reprimand because he had disciplinary action taken against his license by the proper licensing authority of the State of Nevada. (06-19-06)

**Robert M. Block**, license no. DS021117L, of Sterling, Va., voluntarily and permanently surrendered his dental license, because Block had his license to practice dentistry revoked, suspended or had other disciplinary action imposed or consented to by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-14-06)

**Debra L. Coll**, license no. DH009087L, of Kalamazoo, Mich., was assessed a $1,750 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking 20 hours of continuing education within six months. Coll failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 20 hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Howard D. Popky**, license no. DS014940L, of Norristown, Montgomery and Delaware counties, was assessed a $350 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking 18 hours of continuing education within six months. LeCleire failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 18 hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)**

**Beverly Jo Garrett**, license no. DS026654L, of Ranson, W. Va., was assessed a $500 civil penalty because her license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of the state of West Virginia. (07-14-06)

**Amy Lynn Ilko**, license no. DH011036L, of Ambridge, Beaver County, was assessed a $350 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking three hours of continuing education within six months. Ilko failed to meet the required continuing education credits by three hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Mary C. LeCleire**, license no. DS019174L, of Haverford, Montgomery and Delaware counties, was assessed a $350 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking 18 hours of continuing education within six months. LeCleire failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 18 hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Stephen A. Madden**, license no. DS023520L, of Shamokin, Northumberland County, was assessed a $450 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on his board record, and he must complete the lacking six hours of continuing education within six months. Madden failed to meet the required continuing education credits by six hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Howard D. Popky**, license no. DS014940L, of Norristown,
Montgomery County, was assessed a $525 civil penalty, a reprimand placed on his board record, and he must complete the lacking seven hours of continuing education within six months. Popky failed to meet the required continuing education credits by seven hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**John M. Ruggieri**, license no. DS030472L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a $300 civil penalty, a reprimand placed on his board record, and he must complete the lacking four hours of continuing education within six months. Ruggieri failed to meet the required continuing education credits by four hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Richard P. Schell**, license no. DS017214L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a $3,250 civil penalty, a reprimand placed on his board record, and he must complete the lacking 30 hours of continuing education within six months. Schell failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 30 hours for the April 1, 2003, through March 31, 2005, licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Floyd A. Schultz**, license no. DS020452L, of Coopersburg, Lehigh County, was assessed a $900 civil penalty, a public reprimand was placed on his board record, and he is required to submit proof of successful completion of 12 hours of approved continuing education within six months of the effective date of the order. Schultz failed to complete and submit proof of completion of at least 30 credit hours of continuing education in approved courses of which no more than 50 percent of the courses were obtained through individual study. (07-14-06)

**Brenda L. Smith**, license no. DH011267L, of Quakertown, Bucks County, was assessed a $250 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking five hours of continuing education within six months. Smith failed to meet the required continuing education credits by five hours for the April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2005 licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Linda A. Straub-Bruce**, license no. DH009719L, of Erie, Erie County, was assessed a $425 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking 8.5 hours of continuing education within six months. Straub-Bruce failed to meet the required continuing education credits by 8.5 hours for the April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2005 licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Guy G. Troy**, license no. DS014974L, of McMurray, Washington County, was reprimanded and assessed a $1,000 civil penalty because Troy practiced dentistry on an expired license. (7-14-06)

**Leonard Vertsman**, license no. DS030003L, of Fort Lee, N.J., was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty because he had disciplinary action taken against his license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-14-06)

**Erik D. Williams**, license no. DS027201L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was ordered to pay a $500 civil penalty because he had administered nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia on an expired permit. (7-14-06)

**Sharon Ann Wise**, license no. DH006032L, of York, York County, was assessed a $250 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she must complete the lacking five hours of continuing education within six months. Wise failed to meet the required continuing education credits by five hours for the April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2005 licensing period. (07-14-06)

**Anthony J. Ermocida**, license no. DS027173L, of Langhorne, Bucks County, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty and also placed on probation until such time as his NJ license is returned to unrestricted status based on findings Ermocida had disciplinary action taken against his license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-24-06)

**Matthew M. Riffee**, license no. DS027115L, of Lexington Park, Md., was indefinitely suspended. Riffee had disciplinary action taken against his license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-24-06)

**C. Benson Clark**, license no. DS018505L, of Newport News, Va., was suspended based on his violation of a lawful disciplinary order of the board for failure to pay a civil penalty. (08-07-06)

**Beverly Jo Garrett**, license no. DS026654L, of Ranson, W. Va., was suspended based on her failure to pay a civil penalty

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**UNETHICAL OR UNLICENSED ACTIVITY**

If you believe the practice or service provided by a licensed professional to be unethical, below an acceptable standard or out of the scope of the profession; or if you are aware of unlicensed practice, please call the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs complaints hotline at:

In Pennsylvania: 1-800-822-2113  
Out of State: 1-717-783-4854

A complaint form is available on the Department of State’s Web site at: [www.dos.state.pa.us](http://www.dos.state.pa.us)
Disciplinary Actions

Jonathan K. Cole, license no. DS024511L, of DuBois, Clearfield County, had his dental license indefinitely suspended for no less than three years with the suspension immediately stayed in favor of no less than three years of probation, subject to terms and conditions. Cole was unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol. (08-21-06)

Pamela G. Crumrine, license no. DS027177L, of Beaver, Beaver County, was assessed a $1,275 civil penalty and a reprimand was placed on her record with the board. Crumrine failed to complete and submit proof of completion of at least 30 credit hours of continuing education in approved courses, of which no more than 50 percent of the courses were obtained through individual study. The board also ordered her to complete the remaining 17 hours of continuing education that she failed to complete. (09-08-06)

Ronald F. Gerhard, license no. DS021120L, of Red Bank, N.J., agreed to the permanent voluntary surrender of his license to practice dentistry in Pa. Gerhard had disciplinary action imposed on his license to practice dentistry by the proper licensing authority of another state. (09-08-06)

Young Suk Kim a/k/a Young K. Dill, license no. DS030781L, of Henderson, Nev., agreed to the permanent voluntary surrender of her license to practice dentistry in Pa. Kim had disciplinary action imposed on her license to practice dentistry by the proper licensing authority of another state. (09-08-06)

Rebecca A. Licastro, license no. DH067534, of Easton, Northampton County, was assessed a $550 civil penalty, a reprimand placed on her board record, ordered to complete six hours of continuing education credits, and she shall submit proof of current certification in CPR. Licastro failed to complete and submit proof of completion of 20 credit hours of continuing education, and failed to maintain and submit proof of current certification in CPR. (09-08-06)

Susan L. Province, license no. DS025562L, of Sharpsburg, Allegheny County, was suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to the date of suspension by the Ohio State Board of Dentistry on March 1, 2004. Province’s dental license was suspended by the proper licensing authority of another state, and she is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of excessive use of controlled substances, chemicals or any other type of material. (09-08-06)

Richard S. Weiser, license no. DS025710L, of Strongsville, OH, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty because his license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of the State of Ohio. (09-08-06)

Christ Zook, unlicensed, of Milroy, Mifflin County, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty and ordered to cease and desist from engaging in the unlicensed practice of dentistry. (09-08-06)

Eugene C. Kardelis, Jr., license no. DS027961L, of Easton, Northampton County, was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty and had his license probation extended until March 31, 2007. Kardelis violated the terms of his probation and failed to submit proof of 16 continuing education credits earned from April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2005. (09-19-06)

Lawrence J. Korenman, license no. DS035246L, of Richardson, TX, was reprimanded and assessed a $1,000 civil penalty because his license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (09-19-06)

Patrick Francis Degnan, license no. DS023850L, of Norristown, Montgomery County, had his license revoked because he filed false and deceptive renewal applications in 2001, 2003 and 2005, and is unable to practice he dentistry with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of drunkenness or excessive use of alcohol. (10-20-06)

Ethel A. Esianor-Mitchual, license no. DS029950L, of Mount Joy, Lancaster County, was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty and a public reprimand was placed on her record with the board. Esianor-Mitchual failed to provide an exact copy of a patient’s dental record, along with copies of radiographs, within 30 days of receipt of a patient’s written request. (10-20-06)

Carl J. Getty, license no. DS015378L, of Camp Hill, Cumberland County, was assessed a $1,400 civil penalty. Getty practiced dentistry on an expired license. (10-20-06)

Harry P. Meyers, license no. DS019840L, of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on Meyers’ record with the board and his license was placed on probation for a period of one year, subject to terms and conditions. Meyers failed to maintain and retain patient records. (10-20-06)

Gerald H. Smith, license no. DS017037L, of Langhorne, Bucks County, had his license placed on
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active suspension for a period of 30 days. Smith engaged in unprofessional conduct in violation of the Dental Law by departing from, or failing to conform to, standards of acceptable and prevailing dental practice in which proceeding actual injury to the patient need not be established. (10-20-06)

Navid Asgari, license no. DS029917L, of Aston Township, Delaware County, was assessed a $4,000 civil penalty and his license is suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to Oct. 28, 2005, immediately stayed in favor of no less than three years probation, to run concurrently to the Md. Board of Dental Examiners Order dated Oct. 28, 2005. Asgari’s license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (12-01-06)

Nermin J. Ballinger, license no. DS026377L, of Advance, N.C., was reprimanded because Ballinger received disciplinary action from the N.C. State Board of Dental Examiners. (12-01-06)

Michael J. Casella, license no. DS025628L, of West Chester, Chester County, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty and a reprimand was placed on his record with the board. Casella failed to maintain current certification in infant, child and adult CPR as a condition of biennial licensure renewal and for failing to ensure that auxiliary personnel follow current infection-control recommendations issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control. (12-01-06)

Helen E. Ford, license no. DS027483L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was reprimanded and indefinitely suspended until she complies with regulations of the board requiring dentists to provide dental records to a patient within 30 days of receiving a written request. (12-01-06)

Maria Nowacki-Lifsted, license no. DS029385L, of Southampton, Bucks County, was assessed a $750 civil penalty. Nowacki-Lifsted failed to possess a current permit issued by the board before administering conscious sedation or nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia in a dental setting. (12-01-06)

Albert C. LaTorre, Jr., license no. DS024146L, of Warrington, Bucks County, was assessed a $500 civil penalty. LaTorre failed to possess a current permit issued by the board before administering conscious sedation or nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia in a dental setting. (12-01-06)

George J. O’Donnell, Jr., license no. DS024471L, of Westbrook, ME, was revoked because O’Donnell’s license to practice dentistry was revoked by the proper licensing authority of the State of Maine. (12-01-06)

Thaddeus G. Zawislak, license no. DS026933L, of Oil City, Venango County, was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty and his dental license is suspended for no less than one year, immediately stayed in favor of no less than one year of probation. Zawislak failed to keep dental records in conformity to the standards established within the dental profession and Zawislak’s treatment of patients constituted multiple acts of negligence. (12-01-06)

Paul John Marcucci, license no. DS0020270L of Williamstown, N.J., had his license reinstated to restricted status retroactive to Sept. 22, 2006. Marcucci may not prescribe, house, purchase, receive or administer any controlled substances in connection with his profession for a period of no less than three years. (12-01-06)

Simone Y. Daniel, license no. DH006099L of Scranton, Lackawanna County, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty for practicing as a dental hygienist while her license was lapsed. (12-07-06)

John V. Nungesser, license no. DS015932L of Brunswick, ME, agreed to the voluntary and permanent surrender of his license. Nungesser received disciplinary action against his dental license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (12-01-06)
Disciplinary Actions

Helen B. Sroka, license no. DH012939L of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a $600 civil penalty and a reprimand was placed on her board record. Sroka failed to complete and submit proof of completion of at least 20 credit hours of continuing education in approved courses, of which no more than 50 percent were obtained through individual study. (01-12-07)

Michael Allen Swavey, license no. DS026033L, of Saegertown, Crawford County, was revoked because he violated a lawful order previously entered by the board in a disciplinary proceeding. (01-12-07)

Daniel F. Whirlow, license no. DS024999L of Greensburg, Westmoreland County, had his license suspended for one year. Whirlow was found guilty of a felony in violation of federal law. (01-12-07)

Vivian J. Snowden, license no. DS025074L, of Minneapolis, MN, was revoked because her license was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of the state of Minnesota. (01-17-07)

Michael Allen Swavey, license no. DS025033L, of Saegertown, Crawford County, was automatically suspended based on his guilty plea to two felonies under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. (02-20-07)

Daniel J. Damratoski, license no. DS017874L of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was assessed a $150 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on his board record, and was required to submit proof of successful completion of two hours of continuing education courses within six months. Damratoski failed to complete and submit proof of completion of 30 hours of required continuing education courses. (03-08-07)

Tracy Dillon, license no. DH013335L of Milford, Pike County, was assessed a $500 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on her board record, and was required to submit proof of successful completion of 10 hours of continuing education courses within six months. Dillon failed to complete and submit proof of completion of required continuing education courses. (03-08-07)

Bal K. Goyal, license no. DS-019783-L of Broomall, Delaware County, was assessed a $3,000 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on his board record, and was required to submit proof of successful completion of 30 hours of continuing education courses within six months. Goyal failed to complete and submit proof of completion of required continuing education courses and in that he made a false or deceptive biennial renewal with the board. (03-08-07)

Charles G. Wolfe, license no. DS025383L of Bath, Northampton County, was assessed a $3,000 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on his board record, and was required to submit proof of successful completion of 30 hours of continuing education courses within six months. Wolfe failed to complete and submit proof of completion of required continuing education courses and made a false or deceptive biennial renewal with the board. (03-08-07)

Karen L. Cable, license no. DS028117L, of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, was indefinitely suspended, ordered to complete continuing education in the areas of appropriate prescribing and record keeping, ordered to take and pass the Jurisprudence, Ethics and Risk Management examination, and assessed a $3,000 civil penalty. Cable violated the board’s regulations relating to prescribing controlled substances and record keeping, and because she failed to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing dental practice in the treatment of a patient. (03-14-07)

Gregory A. Barksdale, license no. DS024432L of Laverock, Montgomery County, was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on his permanent board record and was required to submit proof of completion of 30 hours of required continuing education courses. (05-04-07)

Claudia M. Clark, license no. DH009864L of Fredericksburg, Lebanon County, was assessed a $400 civil penalty and a reprimand was placed on Clark’s board record. Clark failed to complete and submit proof of completion of at least 20 credit hours of continuing education credits within six months. Barksdale failed to complete and submit proof of completion of 30 hours of required continuing education courses. (05-04-07)

Mark Bradford Dewey, license no. DS028073L, of Morgantown, Berks County, was indefinitely suspended, assessed a $4,500 civil penalty and ordered to make full restitution to nine patients. Dewey was unable to practice dentistry with reasonable skill and safety to patients; withdrew dental services for nine patients after the dentist-patient relationship had been established so that the patients were unable to obtain necessary dental care in a timely manner; failed to provide necessary dental care to nine patients; failed to provide for the disposition of patient records when
he withdrew from practice or was otherwise incapacitated; and failed to provide an exact copy of two patients’ dental records, including radiographs and orthodontic models, within 30 days of receipt of a written request. (05-04-07)

Wayne J. DiBartola, Jr., license no. DS024638L of Bridgeville, Allegheny County, was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty and ordered to complete 15 hours of continuing education in diagnosis and treatment planning and endodontic treatment. DiBartola engaged in unprofessional conduct by departing from, or failing to conform to, standards of acceptable and prevailing dental practice. (05-04-07)

June L. Ellison, license no. DS024266L of Voorhees, N.J., was assessed a $1,687 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on her permanent board record and was required to submit proof of completion of 22.5 credit hours of continuing education within six months. Ellison failed to complete and submit proof of completion of at least 30 credit hours of continuing education in approved courses. (05-04-07)

Michael F. Ferchaw, III, license no. DS025864L of Addison, N.Y., was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty because his license was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of the State of New York. (05-04-07)

Richard A. Leeson, license no. DS016755L of Fort Myers, Fla., was assessed a $1,000 civil penalty, and a reprimand was placed on his board record. Leeson failed to complete and submit proof of completion of at least 30 credit hours of continuing education in approved courses of which no more than 50 percent of the courses were obtained through individual study. (05-04-07)

Paul J. Marcucci, Jr., license no. DS020270L of Williamstown, N.J. was publicly reprimanded, and he was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty because Marcucci practiced dentistry while his license was suspended, violating a board order previously entered in a disciplinary proceeding. (05-04-07)

Vu Dinh Ngo, license no. DS030169L, of Springfield, Va., was revoked because his license was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of Virginia. (05-04-07)

Homayoun Safavi, license no. DS018207L of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, had his license indefinitely suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to July 3, 2006, immediately stayed in favor of three years of probation subject to terms and conditions. Safavi was unable to practice dentistry with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or drunkenness. (05-04-07)

Albert Turk, license no. DS024329L, of Chadds Ford, Delaware County, was assessed a $375 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on his permanent board record and was required to submit proof of completion of five hours of continuing education credits within six months. Turk failed to complete and submit proof of completion of 30 hours of required continuing education courses. (05-04-07)

Pascale Regine Chery, license no. DS035443 of Windermere, Fla., was assessed a $2,000 civil penalty because Chery had disciplinary action imposed on her license to practice dentistry by the proper licensing authority of another state. (06-01-07)

Richard G. Cressman, license no. DS019014L of Eagleville, Montgomery County, agreed to the permanent voluntary surrender of his license. Cressman was unable to practice dentistry with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, drunkenness, or as a result of a mental or physical condition. (06-01-07)

Donald J. Kohl, license no. DS025493L, of Oxford, CT, was assessed a $900 civil penalty, had a reprimand placed on his board record and must submit proof of successful completion of 12 hours of board-approved continuing education credits within six months. Kohl failed to complete and submit proof of completion of at least 30 credit hours of continuing education. (06-01-07)

Gregory L. Schultz, license no. DS017814L of Bath, N.Y., had his license suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to July 14, 2006, immediately stayed in favor of probation, subject to terms and conditions. Schultz violated a lawful disciplinary order of the board. (06-01-07)

Meera Thunga, license no. DS036310 of Mason, OH, had her license placed on probation, during such time as her license to practice dentistry in the State of Ohio is subject to all terms and conditions contained in the Consent Agreement between Meera Thunga and the Ohio State Dental Board. Thunga had disciplinary action imposed or consented to by the proper licensing authority of another state. (06-01-07)

Lisa Walden, license no. DH008168L, of Ambler, Montgomery County, was suspended for three months. Upon completion of the three month suspension, Walden shall be automatically subject to suspension of no less than three years, stayed immediately, in favor of no less than three years probation in the Disciplinary Monitoring Unit (DMU). Walden has been found guilty of a crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude and in that she is unable to practice as a dental hygienist with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of her mental condition. (06-01-07)
PENN SYLVANIA
State Board of Dentistry
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