Final comments submitted on proposed standards for dental therapy education

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) recently submitted its comments to the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) regarding the proposed accreditation standards for dental therapy education programs.

After asking communities of interest to provide comments, CODA received responses from a variety of stakehold- ers — including remarks from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), whose comments to CODA paralleled many of the same points that were included in ADHA’s remarks, and in which the FTC urged CODA to expeditiously adopt accreditation standards for dental therapy education programs.

ADHA comments noted, “CODA’s mission is to serve the oral health care needs of the public through the development and administration of standards that foster continuous quality improvement of dental and dental-related educational programs.” ADHA President Kelli Swanson Jaecks, MA, RDH, said: “The ADHA is focused on improving the public’s access to quality oral health care, which is an essential part of overall health. The comments we provided to CODA highlight the focus and commitment our organization has on improving access to care through the process of an accredited education program for dental therapists.”

The FTC has commented to CODA before on the need to revise the standards that were first proposed in 2013, and ADHA has expressed support for the FTC efforts to help ensure better access to care and enable dental therapists to operate to the full scope of their practice.

FTC: Time to enhance competition

ADHA Executive Director Ann Battrell, MSDH, said: “We were very pleased to see the FTC weigh in once again on the proposed dental therapy education standards. Chairwoman Edith Ramirez has been steadfast in her continuing effort to promote competition in the oral health care industry for the benefit of the public.” Battrell also noted that the FTC’s comments referenced that timely adoption of standards has the potential to enhance competition by supporting state legislative initiatives to create dental therapists, and that national standards will help facilitate the mobility of dental therapists from state to state to meet consumer demand for services.

The FTC’s comments noted that competition provides opportunities for the public to receive greater access to needed oral health care and opens doors for professional advancement to those practicing dental hygiene.

In addition to any remarks supplied to CODA during the comment period, commissioners were able to hear comments directly from ADHA members this summer at an open hearing at ADHA’s annual session in Las Vegas, and ADHA President Swanson Jaecks, among others, addressed CODA at the American Dental Association’s hearing on the standards, held in conjunction with the ADA’s annual meeting in San Antonio in October.

CODA is scheduled to meet on Feb. 6 in Chicago, where it is expected the commission will have further deliberations on the proposed standards for dental therapy education programs. The American Dental Hygienists’ Association is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of more than 185,000 dental hygienists across the country.

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

(Source: ADHA)
Starting to feel like my old self again. I eagerly awaited climbing Mayan pyramids in Belize with my newfound zest for life. Halfway up a hill to the Xunantunich ruins, my guide stopped to pull a leaf off a tree and asked, “Anybody know what this is? Here, taste and see if you can tell me.” It was allspice, but nobody in the group had guessed it. The Mayans used this leaf to cure toothaches. They tucked it between the gum and the tooth to relieve pain.

“Hmmm. While I wasn’t so sure about the pain part, it certainly may have had some antiseptic qualities to it.”

On we went to the pyramids. During the excavation, remains had been found entombed midway up, in the front of the structure. What the archeologists were surprised to discover was that the deceased were Guatemalan. According to my guide, this was established by analyzing the remains based on diet. Part of me wanted to raise my hand and say, “Scuse me, ‘scuse me,” like that annoying apple polisher we all once sat next to in grammar school. But I was on vacation. And I wondered, “Was there no escape from teeth for me this week?”

When I returned home, I decided to write about my exciting trip and all of its dental anecdotes. Just as I started, I noticed a ladybug land on my keyboard. I remembered my grandmother telling me it was good luck to have a ladybug land on you (in spite of the fact that the bug’s house was on fire and her children all gone). I looked up the origin of the children’s rhyme. I found out more than I wanted to know. And what I found made me wince and smile at the same time. Ground up ladybugs were once used to cure toothaches. They were placed inside the cavity. Seems I don’t know everything there is to know about teeth after all. And there is no escaping the wonderful joy of our odd little niche of knowledge.
Designs for Vision is excited to be presenting several new products at the Yankee Dental Congress.

“Designs for Vision was started by my father, Dr. William Feinbloom, as an optical company, and during the 1970s our magnification and illumination products found applications in operating rooms and in operatories,” said company President Richard Feinbloom. “This year we are featuring our ULTRA Mini 2.5x Telescopes, Nike® Retro and DVI Sport frames, and the NanoCamHD™ loupemounted video camera.”

A pair of ULTRA Mini Telescopes weigh as little as 34 grams (1.2 ounces) and are 40 percent smaller than regular telescopes, thus allowing for easier peripheral vision.

“The ULTRA Mini Telescopes,” Feinbloom said, “like our world renowned Dental Telescopes, provide 2.5x magnification that is fully customized to the individual user, providing ergonomic advantages to our customers. Designs for Vision matches the focal length of each telescope to the ideal working distance of our customers. This way the depth of focus surrounds their ideal working distance, instead of adapting to a pre-set focal length.

“We have been working with dentists and hygienists who required true 2.5x magnification, but desired a lighter, smaller device for all-day use. Designs for Vision wanted to design and engineer a full feature system that offered all of the features our customers expect of a Designs for Vision product. The lens system uses the same precision-coated optics as our traditional magnification systems. We can also accommodate eyeglass prescriptions into the ULTRA Mini Telescopes.”

Exclusive Nike Retro frames

The Nike Retro frames are exclusive to Designs for Vision. Available in tortoise shell, black and translucent gray, the Nike Retro has a classic look. The DVI Sport frames can be used for all magnifications and can incorporate eyeglass prescriptions — providing the protective wrap without any distortion.

Designs for Vision’s new NanoCamHD records digitally at 1080 high-definition resolution. The NanoCamHD records magnified HD images from the user’s perspective. The complete system includes 2.5x, 3.5x and 4.5x lens systems to match the typical magnifications, providing a true user’s point of view.

As an added feature, still photographs can be taken from live video feed or during playback mode. The video or still images can be uploaded into a patient file, included in a presentation or course, or shared with a colleague or laboratory for collaborative consultations.

The NanoCamHD complete system includes a color corrected ULTRA Mini LED DayLite® headlight. The combination headlight/NanoCamHD can be attached to loupes or can be worn on a lightweight headband.

The system also includes a foot pedal to enable hands-free operation of the NanoCamHD. Record/pause, mute/unmute and still photography are controlled by the operator hands-free via the pedal.

For best results, combine the NanoCamHD with Designs for Vision’s dental telescopes. Matching true magnification levels of 2.5x, 3.5x or 4.5x can produce realistic simulation from the user’s perspective. The NanoCam can also be attached to the new Nike Retro frames or the new DVI Sport frames.

Visit Designs for Vision at the Yankee Dental Congress at booths Nos. 1000 or 1827 to see the “Visible Difference™” yourself.

(Source: Designs for Vision)
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