



Infection Control Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2009
Los Angeles, CA

Members Present:

Huong Le, DDS, Chair
Judith Forsythe, RDA
Thomas Olinger, DDS
Bruce Whitcher, DDS

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Richard DeCuir, Interim Executive Officer
Nancy Butler, Acting Enforcement Chief
Lori Reis, Complaint & Compliance Unit Manager
Dawn Dill, Licensing & Exam Unit Manager
Sarah Wallace, Administrative Analyst
Donna Kantner, Legislative & Regulatory Analyst
Jocelyn Campos, Enforcement Coordinator
Jessica Olney, Examination & Licensing Analyst
Karen Fischer, Licensing Analyst
LaVonne Powell, DCA Senior Staff Counsel
Kristy Schieldge, DCA Senior Staff Counsel

Dr. Le, Chair, called the committee meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

INF 1: Approval of the July 22, 2009 Infection Control Committee Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (Forsythe/Whitcher) to approve the Infection Control Committee meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

INF 2: Report and Review of Recommendations from the Subcommittee and Possible Action to Accept Recommendations to Initiate a Rulemaking to Amend Infection Control Regulations as Required by Title 16, CCR Section 1005(d)

Dr. Le acknowledged Ms. Forsythe's work on this project to review the new Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and compare with these amendments. She also thanked the Dental Assistant Alliance (Alliance) for its input. LaVonne Powell, legal counsel, felt that the document was well written with rationale for each proposed change. Ms. Kantner, Legislative/Regulatory Analyst, summarized the proposed amendments. Barbara Blade, the Alliance, noted that many of the amendments concern protocols that are currently in use in the dental practice. She stated that the changes were broader rather than more specialized. Dr. Le recommended consistency.

Dr. Olinger recommended the word "healthcare" be replaced by "dentistry" in Section (a)(1), and on page 4, item (4) regarding masks, he recommended not changing the text to require changing masks after each patient. Ms. Blade noted that this recommendation is consistent with CDC and California Department of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-DOSH) standards. Katie Dawson, California Dental Hygiene Association, asked why there is a need to duplicate existing standards.

Ms. Powell noted that all existing standards must be followed, CDC, Cal-OSHA and the Board's. Dr. Olinger withdrew his second recommendation, upon rereading the text he noticed that changing masks after each patient is specified only "whenever there is potential for splashing or spattering of blood or OPIM."

Dr. Earl Johnson recommended adding "implants" to Section (a)(2). It was agreed that implants are devices, as appears in the current text. He suggested that this text be compared with CDC and Cal-OSHA guidelines by knowledgeable people and brought back to the Board.

Ms. Drury-Klein asked that the record reflect that the board's existing regulations were consistent with CDC 2005 guidelines at the time. Dr. Le noted that these amendments being considered would update the infection control to current CDC and Cal-DOSH guidelines .

Ms. Blade addressed the remaining changes and the rationale for each one. Dr. Le recommended that "used intraorally" on page 6 (12) be retained for clarity. Ms. Blade strongly recommended the change to (14), as 95% of needlestick accidents occur at the time of removal from the syringe or its holder. She noted that the waterline issue is very controversial, and the least burdensome wording is suggested.

Ms. Dawson noted that (8) does nothing to address how gloves are stored. Some dentists carry them around in their pockets and pull them out as needed.

Dr. Olinger recommended not over-regulating the profession, and to remember that the board should set the minimum standards.

Ms. Powell asked that if brought back to the board, CDC and Cal-DOSH regulations be included in the packet for comparison. Ms Drury-Klein noted that it is a statutory requirement that the board annually review its infection control regulations, and that federal OSHA is superceded by Cal-OSHA. She asked that the enforcement unit bring their expertise to the discussion. Inspectors use these regulations as a tool when they are in the field, so having that perspective is invaluable.

Dr. Le asked that staff bring information from CDC and Cal-DOSH for discussion of these proposed changes. Dr. Olinger recommended referencing existing regulations from these entities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.