President’s Message

2019 has been filled with both challenges and victories. The reintroduction of the dental therapy legislation in 2019 (Senate Bill 684 and House Bill 649) continues to be opposed by both the FDA and the NEDDA. We believe that access to dental care is a complex matter and we are encouraged that the issue is being addressed. However, we believe that there are better courses of action. For example the FDA successfully championed HB 843 that – among other things - revives a defunct loan repayment program for dentists who see low-income patients.

In an effort to address access to care issues in the state of Florida, Jacksonville will host the Florida Mission of Mercy. The Mission of Mercy is a large-scale, two-day, professional dental clinic that provides care to any patient at no cost to them, with the goal of serving the under-served and uninsured in Florida.

The next Mission of Mercy event will be held April 24-25, 2020 in Jacksonville. With a goal of treating 2,000 patients, The Mission of Mercy seeks to have a positive impact on Florida by relieving pain and infection, restoring dignity and creating smiles.

The end of the year is often a time of reflection, but also a time for looking towards the future. We understand that there are many issues that will continue to present themselves as we move into the 2020. It is our goal to make your needs, as a dentists in Northeast Florida, our primary concern. As we, at the Northeast District, look back on 2019, it is our sincerest hope that we have exceeded your expectations.

If there is anything that we can do to help you and your practice be more successful in 2020 please feel free to contact me directly. 904.434.7883

Best wishes in the upcoming year,

C.J. Henley, DMD
Dear Colleagues,

Happy holidays! It’s the time of year for gratitude and generosity, and there are so many people to whom I’m grateful for the continued success of the Jacksonville Dental Society. Thank you to our members for attending our meetings, providing feedback, and inviting your colleagues to join us! Thanks to our board members, Drs. Bethany Douglas, Patrick Weaver, Chris Henry, Noel Rodriguez, and Executive Director Virginia Smith, as well as NEDDA’s Debbie Deville, for your time and enthusiastic involvement. Finally, a most fervent thank you to our sponsors, whose generosity and dedication to the dental profession make our meetings possible.

At our Military Night meeting on November 14, over a hundred attendees were present at Maggiano’s for Drs. Richard Aguila and Matthew Nawrocki’s excellent lecture, “Surgical and Restorative Concepts in Implant-Supported Fixed Hybrids.” It was an honor to meet so many fellow dentists in the armed services who attended as guests, and we hope they will join us again soon. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020, when we will welcome Dr. Luiz Gonzaga from the University of Florida, who will be speaking on “Biologic Complications in Implant Dentistry.” Please mark your calendars now and watch your email for the meeting’s flyer.

An opportunity to express your own gratitude to the dental profession and generosity to Jacksonville’s children will take place on Saturday, February 8, with the JDS’s annual community program, Give Kids A Smile. This year’s chair, Dr. Patrick Weaver, has been working enthusiastically with Dr. Jeff Smith and fellow members of FSCJ’s dental faculty to plan the event. For the 2020 program, Dr. Weaver’s format will be to schedule fewer but longer time slots, accomplishing as much treatment as possible for each child. We will be sending information on volunteer registration shortly. If you would prefer not to provide treatment but would rather donate, Cammie Davidson of Henry Schein, Inc, and Heather Wolffis of Patterson Dental will be offering options to donate NSK handpieces at 50% off the standard cost. As another option, please consider donating to the JDS Foundation by contacting Ms. Virginia Smith at jaxdentalsociety@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for contributing to the success of the 2020 Give Kids A Smile!

We have had several inquiries about whether we are going to offer a course on Human Trafficking. Unfortunately, our meeting schedule was already set when the new requirement was enacted. However, the Northeast Florida Dental Hygienists’ Association will be holding a 5-credit license renewal program on Saturday, January 25, 2020, which will include courses on human trafficking, domestic violence, and medical errors. Please visit their site at https://www.nefdha.org/annual-2020-seminar to register for the program.

Again, have a wonderful holiday season and New Year, and we’ll look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 16, 2020.

Sincerely,

Millie K. Tannen, DDS
NEW! SIGN UP FOR AUTO-RENEW BY JAN. 1 & RECEIVE THE CE BROKER CONCIERGE PLAN FREE FOR 2020!

To thank you for using auto-renew and to help you renew your dental license, we are offering the CE Broker Concierge Plan for free in 2020. This upgrade tracks your compliance, finds the best CE courses and reports completed hours for you. To receive the Concierge Plan for 2020, sign up for auto-renew by Jan. 1, 2020.
CLAY COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we wrap up 2019, I would like to begin by wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season. It seems that every year goes by faster and faster, and with the holidays approaching, I hope you can enjoy spending some time with friends and family. I would also like to thank you for your continued support of the Clay County Dental Society. Because of members like you, we are progressing CCDS into the future on the right path.

We recently held our second general meeting on November 6th, with Dr. Thomas Currie discussing “Troubleshooting Common Problems during Endodontic Treatment.” The meeting was well attended, and as usual, we had a great time socializing and learning. Thank you to Dr. Currie for a very informative lecture!

The beginning of 2020 will be a very busy time for CCDS. In February, we will continue with our traditional outreach program with The Amazing Mr. G. He will be visiting all 3rd grade students in the Clay County School District to educate about oral hygiene with a fun, magical twist. If you are interested in contributing toothbrushes for our outreach program, please contact me. Our first meeting of 2020 is scheduled for February 5, with Dr. Joshua Perry discussing “Congenitally Missing Lateral Incisors - Implant and Restorative Solutions.” If you would like to attend and have yet to join CCDS, please email me.

Additionally, many of our members will be attending the Mission of Mercy Jacksonville in April. I am personally looking forward to experiencing this event for the first time. I hope to see many of you there as well!

Again, I hope everyone has a happy holiday season: Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year! See you all in 2020!

Sincerely,

Aylin Mazzuoccolo, DMD, MS
On Friday, October 4 NEDDA had its Fall Meeting at the Sheraton Jacksonville. The Ritz—Carlton Leadership Center presented *Memorable Customer Service* to a packed room. The event had sold out weeks prior to the scheduled date. The attendees’ surveyed response indicated that it was a very well received course with many items that they could take back to their respective offices and put into practice immediately. Additionally, there was great interest in continuing this manner of training in the future.

In attendance were FDA Leaders, Dr. Rudy Lidell, FDA President, Mr. Drew Eason, FDA Executive Director and Ms. Kerry Gomez-Rios, FDA Director of Member Relations.

The second NEDDA Business Meeting was held after the lecture concluded. No official business was discussed or voted on. Please be aware that you do not have to register to attend the NEDDA Business meeting at these events. Please contact Debbie at ddeville@nedda.org to rsvp.

Highlights of this meeting included:

- **Dr. Claudio Varella** *(pictured to the right with NEDDA President, Dr. C.J. Henley to the left)* was presented with the **NEDDA President's Plaque of Appreciation** for his outstanding service and leadership for the 2017-2018 year.

- **Dr. Greg Archambault** *(not present)* was awarded the **Sally Ott Memorial Award** for his commendable service to the community as well as NEDDA.

A big **THANK YOU** to our **Meeting Sponsors**. Your support helped make this event a success!

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(please see the NEDDA website for the representatives and contact information for these sponsors)
NEDDA Wishes to Extend its Heartfelt Appreciation, Gratitude and Thanks to Dr. Rick Mullens for his Exemplary Service as Treasurer

After two decades keeping the Northeast Dental Association fiscally viable, Dr. Rick Mullens has passed the torch to Dr. Kris Harth as NEDDA Treasurer. The position of Treasurer is an exacting one and Dr. Mullens handled the fiduciary responsibilities with commitment, dedication, and much grace guiding your NEDDA Executive Council in the maintenance and utilization of your dues monies. Dr. Mullens will be missed in this role but will continue to be an active member of the NEDDA as its Trustee to the FDA.

From the entire NEDDA Executive Council we express our sincere gratitude for your leadership and service as a judicious steward of our organization and thank you for a job well done!
Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Florida Dental Association Board of Trustees. In the last few months the trustees and alternates have participated in a conference call and one in person meeting at FDA headquarters. The October meeting focused on FDA finances, Strategic Planning, and a few ADA topics. At the December 6-7 meeting at FDA headquarters there was discussion on legislative actions, a review of staff compensation and change of a major partner in FDA Services and much more.

The American Dental Association is developing a business model on Practice Transitions. The goal is to partner experienced dentists with younger dentists looking for practices to purchase or associate with. As the market is ever changing, the ADA felt it was time to enter this market and help its members succeed. We were briefed on the progress of this endeavor, and asked to support the ADA coming into Florida to support our members.

Dr Suzanne Ebert, one of our own, has joined the ADA staff and is spearheading this project for the ADA. The BOT voted to support this project and pledged to help it succeed in Florida.

Dentist Day on the Hill is coming up soon. It will be held February 3 and 4. If you haven’t signed up and want to go or are interested in learning how to advocate for your profession, please call Joe Anne Hart at FDA headquarters and hear how important your participation is! Day One of the DDOH includes a conference on Leaders Emerging Among Dentistry (LEAD). This daylong event will pair less experienced dentists who want to learn more of the legislative process. It also includes a public speaking component to teach dentists how to respond to calls for comments from the media. That evening, the participants of DDOH will enjoy a legislative briefing by FDA staff and a few legislators. We will hear about how successful we were last year advocating for our profession, and that Dental Therapy legislation is again being brought forward. This is one of the most important pieces of our profession that needs your time and effort to succeed. When a legislator sees his/her constituents walk into their office, they take the time to listen and, in many cases, make decisions based on your message. If you have never attended a DDOH event, please take the time and sign up for this year’s event on February 3 and 4.

The FDA, its leadership, and board of trustees takes its fiduciary responsibilities very seriously. That is why yearly, we have discussion on staff and their compensation packages. For those that don’t know, the FDA has the best Executive Director in Mr. Drew Eason. He has transformed headquarters into the best state-run dental association in the country. He is constantly asked to weigh in on other states issues and unfortunately for us, been offered many positions that to date he has ignored. It is for these reasons that we heard form Merces Consulting, a company that valuates the compensation of executives in the dental field. Hearing how the compensation of executives is developed has been very helpful for your trustees and alternate trustees making sure the FDA is properly compensating the staff and executives at headquarters. This is essential in staff recruitment and retention.

As part of every BOT meeting, we discuss the subsidiary FDA Services (FDAS). This organization is a for profit arm of the FDA, helping get the best deals on many products and services for its members. This year we have a change in FDAS. The COO of FDAS is Mr. Scott Ruthstrom. He presented our newest member, The Dentists Supply Company. This is a dental supply company owned by dentists for dentists. It has been around for years and partners with most state dental associations. TDSC should provide us with considerable savings on supplies used in our offices. The website for TDSC is www.tdsc.com/Florida.

The House of Delegates will meet this January at the Tampa Airport Marriott. The meeting takes place January 24 and 25. One of the topics presented will include National Licensure. As we all know, the ADA has developed a patient-less exam called the DLOSCE. This stands for Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Exam. This type of exam is patient-less, computer based, and didactive versus clinical in the assessment of a graduate for licensure. Dr Guy Shampaine, the executive director of ADEX, and Dr. David Waldschmidt, an ADA psychometrician, will discuss all avenues of licensure including our current ADEX exam given by the CDCA. Anyone interested in the Florida licensure process should try to make this year’s HOD.

Finally, the FDA Mission of Mercy is scheduled for Jacksonville at the Prime Osbourne Convention Center April 24 and 25, 2020. The planning is in full swing. Thank you to the many who are currently serving in organizational roles in preparing for this event. The last Jacksonville MOM event treated over 2700 patients to a tune of 2.7 million dollars and a nationally valued Impact Study. We are fortunate again to have the support of the Delores Weaver Foundation. This includes a dollar for dollar match. Every dollar a dentist donates will be matched by this foundation. If you haven’t donated yet and want to donate before the years end, or make a 2020 contribution, please make your donation at FLAMOM.org. We also need volunteers to provide care at the event. This includes dentists, dental assistants, and hygienists. Please sign up now and help the people of Northeast Florida receive the care they so desperately need.

There is a lot going on in dentistry today that impacts our ability to practice and provide care for our patients. We are always in need of dentists to serve on committees, the Florida House of Delegates, and the FLAMOM events. If you want to participate or have questions, please contact Debbie DeVille at ddeville@nedda.org.

From all of us to all of you, please have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas!

Dan Gesek, DMD
FDA Trustee
Chair of 2020 FDAMOM
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FUNDING NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT FDA PRIORITIES

By Joe Anne Hart, FDA Chief Legislative Officer

During the 2019 Legislative Session, the FDA successfully passed legislation that was signed into law to establish the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program and the DDS program. Although the policy was approved to establish these programs, the Legislature did not allocate funding needed to implement these programs. The Department of Health (DOH), which is the entity these programs will be administered by or contracted through, projected that the state could implement these programs at approximately $773,000.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, the FDA will pursue funding to help ensure that these programs will be implemented to help increase access to dental care around the state.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
You can help get support from the Legislature by clicking here and responding to the Legislative Alert. Legislators are currently holding interim committee meetings in Tallahassee for the next two months before session starts in January 2020. It is important that this funding priority is on their radar prior to the development of the budget recommendations. Click here to access the FDA’s Legislative Action Center. Please note: You must be logged in to view this webpage.
now you know INFORMATION FROM THE FDA

all you need to know about hot topics

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The latest news from the Florida Dental Association about major topics that affect dentistry in Florida. Your exclusive members-only benefit!

- Opioids
- Dental Therapists
- Student Debt
- Board of Dentistry
- Medicare/Medicaid

For more reading, you can view the latest Today's FDA, email blasts or Beyond the Bite blog.
Are You Renewal Ready?

All Florida-licensed dentists must renew their license through CE Broker for the 2018-2020 biennium by Feb. 28, 2020. You must have 30 hours of continuing education (CE) by the biennium deadline to renew your license. Click here to view the list of courses that must be taken to renew. Florida Dental Association (FDA) membership has its perks, and we want to make your renewal process as seamless as possible! Below are some helpful tips to assist you in the renewal process.

NEW! Mandatory CE — Opioid Prescribing and Human Trafficking

All dentists, regardless of DEA licensing, must take a two-hour CE course on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances during licensure renewal by Feb. 28, 2020. You do not need to take another CE course on the prescribing of controlled substances for this licensure cycle if you already did so during this biennium. Click here to learn more about this new legislation. The FDA offers a two-hour Opioid Prescribing on-demand webinar for $50 for FDA members. Click here to take the course.

All dentists and dental hygienists must take a one-hour CE course on human trafficking by Jan. 1, 2021 and are required to place a sign in your office with specific language for human trafficking victims. Click here to learn more about this new legislation and get your free copy of the Human Trafficking sign. The FDA offers a one-hour Human Trafficking on-demand webinar for $35 for FDA members. Click here to take the course.

The FDA provides exclusive members-only discounts on CE Broker accounts for you and your team. Click here for this members-only discount code.


Voluntary Dental Workforce Survey — No Longer Protected by Public Record Exemption

If someone from the public requests a copy of the dental workforce surveys completed during licensure renewal, the Department of Health is not required to maintain the anonymity of the respondents’ personal identifying information and responses to the survey.

Dentists and dental hygienists are given the opportunity to complete this voluntary dental workforce survey, which collects information to better understand the dental workforce in Florida, during licensure renewal. The Dental Workforce Survey is NOT mandatory.

Questions? The FDA is available to assist with your renewal needs! If you have any questions or need additional information on the biennium, renewal process, CE Broker or the FDA online CE, please contact the FDA office at 800.877.9922 or fda@floridadental.org.
NEDDA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Dr. Manuel Acosta Hernandez
Jarrod Branson
Aida Cavka
Haya Demetree
John Draper
Dominique Durham
Aaron Evens
Carolina Garcia
Emma Hughes
John Kulaga
Ava Lee
Pamela Lima
Elssy Lopez
Alejandro Madruga
Alex McKinney
Serge Mechrek - Ortho
Shatha Mechrek - Ortho
Shane Mobley
Lauryn Mohler
Sergio Palacios - OMFS
Ryan Parker
James Piner
Arthur Popkowski
Rachel Schloth
Dhaval Shah
Peter Shih - Ortho
Bradley Sleeth - Endo
Deric Thomson - OMFS
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SHOP ONLINE AND START SAVING TODAY
LOCUM TENENS DENTISTRY...WHY?

By, Dr. Faye Strickland

A relationship with a locum tenens dental agency should be a tool that solo practitioners have in their armamentarium making their lifestyles more manageable. Most traditional doctors take one or two weeks off a year for vacation. When they do, they often require their staff to take off the same week. The staff has the right to apply for unemployment compensation if their hours are cut without cause. Patients are put on hold for the duration or are told to go to the emergency room if they have a problem. Revenue stops flowing. Having a relationship with a qualified locum tenens dentist enables the doctor to take time off for vacations, maternity/medical leaves etc. more effectively. The practice stays open, care is being provided for the patients, the staff is employed, and revenue is being produced.

The locum tenens is not an employee. They work as an independent agent and the owner dentist has no need to credential the dentist, withhold taxes, or supply malpractice insurance. These are generally addressed by a reputable agency and the contracted locum tenens dentists. The owner doctor is not married to any particular temp doctor. If the relationship isn’t working or circumstances change, the agency can make other arrangements for the parties involved. On the other hand, if the relationship is great, the owner doctor can buy out the locum tenens contract and hire them as an employee.

There is flexibility in the levels of care provided. Some offices only want hygiene checks and emergency care. Others might request restorative work too. More advanced specialty work demands greater skill and rates are reflected accordingly.

Who are these locum tenens doctors? Some are doctors who have just retired from full time dentistry. They are the highly skilled “wet fingered” dentists who have honed their skills for years and want to help because it provides them a transition from going full steam every day to working when they want. They enjoy bringing their expertise to your office. Another excellent candidate for locum tenens might be a dentist who is raising a family, wants to work part time, has worked in dentistry, and wants to keep in the loop. They want flexibility in their working schedule and can achieve that in this venue.

Once a doctor has tried this arrangement and is comfortable working with a locum tenens dentist, he will see the value of having a relationship like this in his practice. Running a dental business is stressful enough, and there is a better way that a doctor can take time off when he needs or wants to without having to close his office or hire a permanent associate.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER TO TREAT PATIENTS IN YOUR OFFICE:
• PROJECT: DENTIST’S CARE
  Project: Dentist’s Care is the program that coordinates the placement of uninsured, low income residents with dental emergencies into private offices. Extractions and restorations are the primary treatment needs. All treatment plans will be cleared by the Dentist prior to the patient being scheduled. Contact Community Health Outreach administration office at 904-573-1333 ext. 4 or admin@chojax.org.

VOLUNTEER AT THE FOLLOWING JACKSONVILLE CLINIC:
• COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH – The clinic is located at 5126 Timuquana Road. The mission of this clinic is to render dental services to those living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This facility has six operatories, with the ability to perform dental exams, digital radiographs (periapical and panoramic), operative dentistry, removal partial and complete denture (dental lab services are available), non-surgical endodontic therapy, extractions, scaling/root planning and fluoride applications. A registered dental hygienist is also available. For more information and to volunteer please contact Staci Magruder at: Volunteer@CHOjax.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP CHANGE A LIFE:
• Florida Donated Dental Services (DDS) is a program of Dental Lifeline Network • Florida. The program helps provide comprehensive dental treatment for people who are elderly, have a disability or are medically fragile, and is operated in partnership with the FDA.
  Join other FDA DDS volunteers to help some of Florida’s most vulnerable residents who have no access to dental care. More than 583 people statewide are waiting for treatment and DDS is unable to accept any more applications in most Florida counties because of the long waitlist. You can help by treating one patient per year or as many as you choose.
  Volunteering is easy. You review the patient profile in advance, choose to see or decline any patient, and determine your own treatment plan. You see patients in your own office and never pay lab costs. DDS Coordinator Megan Manor screens patients to determine eligibility, handles the paperwork, serves as liaison between your staff and the patient, and arranges for assistance from specialists and laboratories.
  You can help change a life. To volunteer visit: www.WillYouSeeOne.org
Dental Lifeline Network (DLN) recently released its first online-only version of its fundraising program, DentaCheques. The program provides thousands of dollars in discounts and exclusive offers and is now easy to access through the online platform.

Thousands of dollars of dental product discounts, samples, and rebates are now available for purchase online for $169. The online DentaCheques packages for dental practitioners include:

- **Dealer discounts** – $120 discount on orders from dental supply companies.
- **MEGAsamples** – products shipped directly to you for no additional charge, plus a "mystery box" with a mix of new products to sample.
- **80 manufacturer discount offers** valued at more than **$13,000**.
- **An opportunity to help provide dental treatment** to people with special needs.

"DentaCheques is a win-win because I receive discounts on products as well as free products and the cost of purchasing this e-book is recouped quickly," said Judith M. Fisch, DDS. "Therefore, DLN receive this financial donation and I receive the purchasing deals."

This annual fundraiser helps support the nonprofit’s flagship program, Donated Dental Services (DDS), which provides crucial treatment to people who cannot afford dental care, people with disabilities or people who are medically fragile, and the elderly. One hundred percent of proceeds from the sales of DentaCheques goes directly to support Donated Dental Services (DDS).

DDS includes a national network of 15,000 volunteer dentists and 3,500 dental laboratories across the United States that provide free, comprehensive, and life-changing dental treatment. Since its inception in 1985, the DDS program has surpassed $378 million in donated dental therapies, transforming the lives of more than 120,000 individuals.

"Millions of Americans are unable to smile, work or live full lives due to significant dental concerns," said Dental Lifeline Network CEO, Fred Leviton. "Right now, we have more than 11,000 people on a waitlist to receive desperately needed services. Through fundraisers like these, we can get them the care they need."

Start saving. Start Helping, visit [https://dentacheques.dentallifeline.org/](https://dentacheques.dentallifeline.org/).

**About DentaCheques:** DentaCheques is an online dental product coupon package. Participating dental supply companies and manufacturers offer discounts including rebates, free samples, and discounts on hundreds of products. DentaCheques is the premiere fundraising effort of Dental Lifeline Network (DLN) benefitting thousands of underserved individuals in desperate need of dental care.

**About Dental Lifeline Network:** Dental Lifeline Network (DLN) is a national charitable organization and affiliate of the American Dental Association whose mission is to improve the oral health of people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and have no other way to get help. DLN accomplishes its mission by developing and coordinating collaborative relationships that provide essential resources for direct-service programs, especially charitable care.

**Contact:**
Clair Diones
Dental Lifeline Network
VP, Marketing and Communications
RESPONSE TO THE DOCTORS COMPANY’S PHYSICIAN SURVEY ON OPIOID USE

By Roneet Lev, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Office of National Drug Control Policy

On behalf of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), I would like to acknowledge The Doctors Company’s highlighting of the opioid epidemic and safe prescribing practices. The Doctors Company’s social media surveys of physicians, as well as national data, demonstrate that the medical community is responding to the message about safe prescribing and is exploring solutions.

Initial market data suggests that the total amount of opioids being prescribed monthly has dropped 34 percent from January 2017 through February 2019. The invaluable efforts of the medical community have helped to reduce the morphine milligram equivalents (MME) to 175 billion MME in 2017. That is the equivalent of 52 pills per American adult. While this is a significant improvement, it still is not near the prescribing numbers from 1992 of 25 billion MME, or 22 pills per adult.

As the Chief Medical Officer at ONDCP, I am constantly looking for new and innovative ways for the Administration to support doctors in our critical mission of saving lives. To this end, I am working to better coordinate efforts between public health, law enforcement, and community prevention programs in battling the addiction crisis across our nation.

The Administration is working to empower doctors in reducing mortality from medications by promoting safe prescribing practices. We know that the combination of multiple central nervous system depressant medications can be extremely dangerous—that includes opioids, benzodiazepines, stimulants, sleep aids, alcohol, and marijuana. Most people who fatally overdose do so on a combination of substances rather than a single medication. In 2017, the death rate for accidental overdoses on all medications, not just opioids, was 4.7 per 100,000. That is 15,173 individuals that were lost. In comparison, in 1999, the reported mortality rate was just two deaths per 100,000 or 5,628 people.

Preliminary data indicates that this trend is beginning to decrease, and I know that the medical community will respond with creative approaches and strong leadership to reduce the number of fatal overdoses due to medication, thanks to the implementation of stronger safe prescribing techniques.

Substance use disorder (SUD) affects over 20 million Americans, and the Administration is proud to report that the number of Americans accessing treatment for SUD has increased by 20 percent. Despite these gains, only 12 percent of people with SUD receive any treatment. Thank you to the many in the medical community who realize that addiction is a chronic relapsing disease (like diabetes or hypertension) that warrants treatment with compassion, and without stigma.

Continued on next page
One way the medical community can help get more people into treatment is by increasing the ability to refer someone with an addiction to a specialist. Just as someone can be referred for orthopedics or any other specialty care, a person with an addiction needs specialized care. We are working on increasing the addiction workforce at clinics and hospitals, and encourage the medical community to reach outside their system if such services are not yet available at their institution.

Just as the medical community has helped us to reduce the number of prescriptions for high-dose opioids, it will be instrumental in promoting safe prescribing, screening for addiction, and connecting patients to addiction treatment. I, along with my colleagues at ONDCP, applaud the medical community for being a key part of our mission of saving lives.

References:


“Mike was very helpful with getting my worker’s comp, malpractice insurance and health insurance squared away. He was very prompt to respond and made the process very easy. I would recommend his services if you are planning on opening up your own business or if you’re an independent contractor. Great service!”

- Dr. Vanessa B., Customer Since 2017

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5 Reasons Why You Shouldn’t Wait to Leave Windows 7

If you haven’t upgraded your network operating system, your patient data is at risk.

By now, you’ve heard the warning: After January 14, 2020, Microsoft will no longer support Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, and 2008 R2.

If you haven’t yet looked into how to upgrade your operating system, you’re not alone. However, this discussion must begin with an important question: are you willing to accept the risk of running your dental practice on an unsupported operating system (OS), knowing that cyber-attacks and crypto ransomware attacks are growing exponentially? If you’re not comfortable taking a risk like that, keep reading.

For practices who haven’t experienced a devastating cyber-attack, the warning that will be repeated over the next several weeks may seem like “white noise.” However, it’s important that you don’t tune it out. When Windows support ends, no updates will be released for these operating systems, and you can be assured that hackers will be waiting in the wings to exploit vulnerabilities in unprotected systems.

With this mind, here are 5 reasons why you shouldn’t wait to leave Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008:

1. Unsupported OS Increases Risk
Running unsupported operating systems is a data security risk that leaves your office network more vulnerable to attack. Unsupported operating systems are not updated with patches in response to new security threats.

Legacy Windows operating systems, in particular, act as a major vulnerability for connected medical devices, according to a recent report. Data from that study showed that a majority of vulnerable systems were running Windows versions that will expire by January 14, 2020, including Windows 7, Windows 2008, and Windows Mobile.

The report added that despite the clear security risks, the cost and complication of updates make it likely that many offices will continue to have technology running on unsupported operating systems.

2. Cyber Attacks Are on the Rise
The healthcare industry, and in particular dental practices, can be attractive to cybercriminals because smaller practices often have outdated systems, lack experienced cyber personnel, and house highly valuable data that the practices are willing to pay ransom to recover. Cyber-attacks are on the rise, as evident in statistics from the Cybersecurity Almanac from Cybersecurity Ventures:

- Businesses will fall victim to a ransomware attack every 11 seconds by 2021. That’s up from every 14 seconds in 2019 and every 40 seconds in 2016.
- Healthcare ranks No. 1 in the 5 most cyber-attacked industries.
- Ransomware attacks on healthcare organizations are predicted to quadruple between 2017 and 2020, and will grow 5X by 2021.

Here’s another timely statistic from healthcare: Attacks that paralyze web networks at hospitals and physicians’ offices, known as “distributed denial of service attacks” (DDoS) soared up to 1,400% in the past 12 months.

3. Industry-wide Intel/CP Shortage
Upgrading to the latest OS may not be possible because older hardware may not support it. That means you’ll have to upgrade your practice hardware as well. January 2020 is still a few months away, which seems like a lot of time right now. However, the industry is already facing significant shortages in critical computer components. Substantial shortages in the availability of computers are predicted for the rest of the year.

4. Annual Labor Shortage
Just because you get the equipment doesn’t mean the local IT organization is going to have the labor force to do the installation in a timely manner. Historically, a lot of the installations are completed in late Q4 or even Q1 of the following year because of the increased number of orders that are placed in Q4. Don’t wait to place your order.

5. Inability to Obtain or Retain Cyber Security Insurance
Not only are you exposing yourself to a higher potential for security attacks and risk, but your cyber security insurance policy may not cover you either. Your policy may not cover incidents involving hardware and software that has not been properly updated or is not supported by the manufacturer. You should read through your policy and ensure that you’re covered, but we recommend that you upgrade well in advance to ensure you don’t have to worry about it.

Continued on next page
Take Action Now

There’s a lot to consider when updating your network operating system, and as a dentist you shouldn’t have to worry about these issues; you should be focused on your patients.

TechCentral by Henry Schein One can help you stop wasting time and stressing out about trying to keep your network infrastructure and workstations up to date. Our latest offering, OmniCore, is an all-in-one network infrastructure solution, which provides all essential network hardware and services to make sure your office network is always up to date. In addition to removing the burden of choosing the right hardware, OmniCore minimizes your financial burden because technical support, hardware and software management, equipment upgrades, and even the replacement of failed hardware is included in one easy-to-budget monthly amount.

Whether you need to upgrade your existing hardware, or replace your entire networking infrastructure in your practice, TechCentral has your back, so you can focus on your patients and offer excellent dental care rather than dealing with IT issues.

Start with a free technology assessment from TechCentral to find out if you need an upgrade. If it turns out that your network is at risk, we’ll work with you on an upgrade plan to ensure your practice is protected, sooner rather than later.

Learn More

Find out if you need an upgrade by requesting a free technology assessment from TechCentral. Visit www.henryscheintechcentral.com/upgradewindows.

By David Broom, HCISSP

David Broom is Senior Director of Product and Business Development. David has a master’s degree in Information Technology (IT) from the University of Texas in Dallas and has more than 35 years of experience from many global companies such as Hitachi Vantara, Methode Electronics, and Keane, Inc. In his current role, he is responsible for all aspects of the product management and field service teams at Henry Schein TechCentral, which identifies the ideal advanced technologies to meet the unique needs of the dental market and ensure that dental offices are using the right IT to be more efficient and effective.

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