



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

April 2024, Vol. 70, No. 4



Dr. Cheryle Baptiste

Letter from DC Dental Society President Cheryle Baptiste, DDS, FICD, FIAMDI

Dear DC Dental Society Members,

April is the month that we recognize new starts, new beginnings and new opportunities.

The senior dental students at Howard University College of Dentistry will be looking forward to graduation next month. We salute them and their accomplishments as they embark on a new horizon!

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month and National Facial Protection Month:

- April 8-12 is National Dental Hygienists Week
- April 9 or 10 (evening) is Eid al-Fitr “festival of breaking the fast.” Ramadan 2024 was expected to begin on March 10 and end on April 8
- April 22 (sunset) - April 30 is Passover, a sacred Jewish holiday that commemorates the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt and their freedom

The DCDS Public Policy Committee and Medicaid Subcommittee Members and the DCDS staff have been putting in some very long hours for us. They have been working on a town hall meeting for April 4.

The town hall meeting is intended to raise awareness among DC dentists and coordinating advocacy on two important topics:

- A proposal to require all specialist dentists to obtain a specialist license (Dental Specialties Licensure and Scope of Practice Amendment Act of 2023 (B25-0632). See details on page 2 of this newsletter and on the DCDS website.
- Our effort to increase Medicaid fees paid for covered dental services (see details on page 2 of this newsletter and on the DCDS website). Note

A Look Inside...

Letter from the President.....	1
Advocacy Update	2
April CE Presentation	3
Join DCDS for Nats Baseball	4
2024 CE Presentations	6
Educational Needs Assessment Survey.....	7
Participate in DC Dental Cares	8
Health Professional Loan Repayment Program	9
DCDS Member Value—Programs and Discounts.....	12
ADA News.....	16
Classifieds.....	20

Letter from the President—Continued on page 5

Level III Dental Assistants Dental Specialties Licensure Proposal Medicaid Fees Budget Hearing 2024

Scope of Practice Changes for Dental Assistants (Level III)

DC Health recently finalized regulations to update the scope of practice for dental assistants. DCDS successfully advocated for an expansion of the scope of practice for dental assistants in several areas, including the creation of the new position of Level III Dental Assistant.

The changes include:

- An expansion of the scope of practice for Level I Dental Assistants
- An expansion of the scope of practice for Level II Dental Assistants
- The creation of a Level III Dental Assistant authorized to perform:
 - All functions of a Level I or Level II Dental Assistant
 - The application of pit and fissure sealants
 - Coronal polishing to remove stain and biofilm; and
 - Glucose testing.

You can read more on the DCDS website on the page [Summary of Changes to DC Regulations on the Scope of Practice for Dental Assistants](#).

Proposed Licensing Requirement for Specialist Dentists and Scope of Practice Changes

The DC Council is considering legislation to update to the scope of practice for dentists (see [Dental Specialties Licensure and Scope of Practice Amendment Act of 2023, B25-0632](#)). This legislation would establish a new licensing requirement for specialists in DC.

DCDS has strong objections to the requirement that all specialist dentists obtain a specialty license. We have requested that the DC Council Committee on Health schedule a hearing on the bill so the concerns of practicing dentists can be heard.

Read more on our web page Summary of the ["Dental Specialties Licensure and Scope of Practice Amendment Act of 2023"](#) (B25-0632).

Medicaid Fees for Covered Dental Practices

DCDS is advocating for higher fees to be paid to dentists under Medicaid for covered dental procedures. A hearing on the DC fiscal year 2025 budget for the Department of Health Care Finance - the agency that sets fees under DC Medicaid - will be held on April 29.

All DC dentists who accept patients enrolled in Medicaid are encouraged to testify. The deadline to register as a witness is 5 PM on April 25. To testify you must register through the DC Council's [Hearings Management System](#).

Tuesday, April 9th Meeting (In-Person): “2024 New Trends and Perspectives in the Identification and Treatment of Sleep Disordered Breathing”

Presented by Dr. Tracey Nguyen

Business Meeting Begins at 5:45 PM

Education Program Begins at Approximately 6:00 PM

Lecture Format

CE Credits Offered: 2.0 CE Credits

Cost: Free to DCDS Members | Non-Members—\$75 Presentation Recording or \$110 In-Person

Disclosures: None

Meeting Description

Session 1: Identification and Screening for Sleep Disordered Breathing

This lecture serves as a comprehensive guide to screening for sleep disordered breathing.

Learning Objectives Session 1:

- Define sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) and its various manifestations.
- Identify the pathophysiology underlying different types of sleep-disordered breathing, including the role of upper airway obstruction, respiratory control instability, and neural dysfunction.
- Discuss various screening tools that you can use in your office.

Session 2: 2024 New Surgical and Non-Surgical Trends in the Management of Sleep Disordered Breathing

Sleep disordered breathing is a multifactorial disorder that requires an interdisciplinary approach. We will explore surgical and non-surgical treatment options that affect the skeletal anatomy. There will be a discussion no other adjunctive treatments that focus on soft tissue and function.

Learning Objectives Session 2:

- Examine emerging research trends and advancements in the field of sleep medicine.
- Discuss the latest surgical and non-surgical advances.
- Discuss dental intervention strategies that affect soft tissue and function.

Visit the [DCDS Registration Fees & Cancellation Policy page](#) for more details on registration and [read about the presenter here](#).

The District of Columbia Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider.



Dr. Tracey Nguyen

[Register Here](#)

Enjoy a Night of Baseball with Your DCDS Friends at Nationals Park June 7—Nats vs. Braves Order Your Tickets Today!

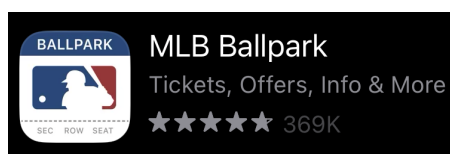
Join DCDS for an evening at Nationals Park on Friday, June 7 when the Nats play the Atlanta Braves.

DCDS is offering tickets for the member price of \$29 for the first 50 tickets sold. Bring your family, friends or staff. Non-member price is \$37. Tickets are valued at \$44 (Section 204) plus no booking fees!

Game starts at 6:45 PM.

Stick around after the game for a live concert featuring Grammy nominee Flo Rida! Postgame concerts are free for fans attending the game and will begin approximately 30 minutes following the final out. Family members are welcome.

Promotion ends April 24.



Purchase Tickets

Disclaimer: See the [Major League Baseball website](#) for [Terms and Conditions](#), details on [game delay & postponement](#) and other information. According to the Terms & Conditions, children under 2 years of age are admitted to the Ballpark without a ticket and must be seated on the lap of an accompanying adult.

Tickets will be purchased pending availability. DCDS member price per ticket is \$29 for the first 50 tickets purchased by DCDS, and is extended to family, friends and staff. The non-member price is \$37 per ticket. Tickets to be purchased in section 204 pending availability (see [Nationals Park seating chart](#)). All baseball ticket sales are final and no refunds will be offered.

Tickets will be delivered via the MLB Ballpark App. Download the app from your favorite app store. Look for the MLB Ballpark image shown above.

Letter from the President

that the hearing on the budget for the Department of Health Care Finance, which includes the DC Medicaid budget, was rescheduled for April 29.

Please remember to register for our April 9 in-person CE event, “2024 New Trends and Perspectives in the Identification and Treatment of Sleep Disordered Breathing,” presented by Dr. Tracey Nguyen.

Can you appreciate enhanced innovation, creativity, productivity, reputation, engagement in our society and profession? Engaging in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategies have been proven to bring about the best talent and environment in these areas. Let our DCDS commit to DEI as we share our experiences and perspectives.

Have a blessed April as we pray for peace!

Best regards,

Cheryle Baptiste, DDS, FICD, FIAMD
President 2024-2025

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Upcoming 2024 Continuing Education Presentations

As a reminder all members of the DC Dental Society, including those in a residency program, can attend our monthly meetings at no cost. I hope you will join us in-person at the DCDS office to reconnect with your friends and colleagues in the dental community over dinner, while earning up to 2 hours of continuing education.

Monthly business meeting begins at 5:45 p.m. Educational session begins at approximately 6:00 p.m. [Visit the DCDS website](#) for course information, speaker bios, fees and cancellation policy.

About DCDS Speakers

Your DC Dental Society has developed a continuing education program that features leading experts in dental care whether they practice across the country or down the street. The inclusion of local presenters on the program for DCDS monthly meetings is intended to foster collegiality and support our local community. DCDS does not endorse one specialist over another, but celebrates D.C. talent.

Meeting Date	Meeting Topic	Speaker
April 9, 2024	Airways	Dr. Tracy Nguyen
May 14, 2024	Implant Anterior Aesthetics	Dr. Jonathan Esquivel
September 10, 2024	Breathing Disorders/ Myofunctional Therapy	Ms. Gillian Gladstone Teran
October 17, 2024	Updates on Current Dental Materials	Dr. Nate Lawson
November 14, 2024	Risk Management and Malpractice Avoidance	Dr. Marc Leffler
December 10, 2024	Cybersecurity	Mr. Gary Salman

Continuing Education Disclaimer: The District of Columbia Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. It is the responsibility of each participant to verify the CE requirements of his or her licensing or regulatory agency and to contact them with any questions regarding licensing. The DC Dental Society designates the above presentations for 2 CE credits each.

Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the **Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition** at [ADA.org/CERP](https://www.ada.org/CERP).

ADA CERP® | Continuing Education
Recognition Program

Board of Dentistry Update

Next Meeting: Wed., April 17th at 9 AM
Virtual Only

All DC Dentists are encouraged to attend

[Click this link](#) to join online.

Help Shape DCDS Educational Programs

DCDS is now conducting its annual [Educational Needs Assessment Survey](#). Please take a moment to share your top priorities for continuing education offered during the 2025 program year.

Is there a hot topic you'd like to know more about?

Now is your opportunity to share those ideas as well as feedback on educational sessions over the past year.

All dentists in the DC community are invited to participate in the Educational Needs Assessment Survey. It's quick and it will help to ensure our programming addresses the most relevant and interesting topics in dentistry.

[Take Survey](#)

Member Notice—We're Moving to a New CE System!

DCDS is moving to a new system for recording CE credits.

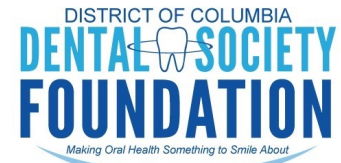
Please complete all evaluations and quizzes for 2024 CE meetings by June 9.

Access [Online CE Evaluation Portal](#). The username is your ADA number. The password is dcds.

DC DENTAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Blessed to Help

“The time spent has been at times challenging, difficult, frustrating, but is very rewarding and well worth serving these patients. These patients are timely, diligent and extremely appreciative. I feel so blessed to help.” Dr. Rodney Savoia



Sign up for DC Dental Cares, the DC Dental Society Foundation's pro bono program.

This program is win-win-win: for our community, for the individuals who receive dental procedures that would not otherwise be possible due to costs, and for the DCDS volunteer who gains that warm feeling that comes from doing good.

Patients are fully vetted for need by our partner, the Catholic Charities Healthcare Network (CCHCN), and the treating dentist sets the level of care provided. You can treat one person a year or several a month, all while in the comfort of your own office.

DC Dental Cares Sign Up Form

Welcome

New Member

Dr. Toshar Taneja

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



HPLRP

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 202.442.5892

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DC HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

On **March 15, 2024**, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) will accept applications for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP). The program provides loan repayment services to eligible providers practicing in HPLRP-certified Service Obligation Sites (SOS) in the District.

Who Can Apply:

Primary Care, Mental Health, and Dental Providers, Including: Physicians, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Registered Nurses, Midwives, Advanced Practice Nurses & Physician Assistants

The HPLRP will issue up to eleven (11) award contracts. Award contracts will cover two years of participation and award contract amounts will be equivalent to 44 percent of a provider's total eligible debt - up to a maximum of \$72,617.88 for physicians and up to \$39,938.83 for all other eligible primary care providers. The maximum award amount for four years of service is \$165,040.64 for medical doctors and dentists and \$90,770.07 for all other approved DC licensed providers.

When to Apply:

New provider applications will be accepted from **March 15, 2024 to April 15, 2024.**

How to Apply:

dchealth.dc.gov/service/dc-health-professional-loan-repayment-program-hplrp

How to Complete an HPLRP Application

March 14, 2024 3-4pm
Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6m9atd>
Join by phone: 202-860-2110
Access code: 2306 248 7393
Meet virtually with Cisco Webex.

Additional Information:

Providers interested in the program must be employed or have an employment contract with a certified Service Obligation Site (SOS) to provide direct patient care for at least 20 hours per week. A site must be an approved SOS for a provider to be eligible for the HPLRP. To become an SOS, a site must be a public or nonprofit entity located in a Health Professional Shortage or Medically Under-served Area/Population (HPSA/MUA/MUP) and must submit a Site Certification Application to the HPLRP. HPLRP applications, including recommendation letters and loan verification information, must be completed and received by DC Health by April 15, 2024.

Providers at for-profit facilities are newly eligible. See the website for details.

The anticipated contract start date for selected applicants is **August 2024.**



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www.merchantadvocate.com/dcds



MEMBER VALUE

Save hundreds with DCDS and ADA Programs and Discounts

DC Dental Society has partnered with the following companies to bring you discounted pricing on the supplies and services for your practice.

Dental Supplies



Insurance



Endorsed Credit Card Processor



Educational Loans



Compliance Services



Consulting on Credit Card Fees



ADA Endorsed Programs

ADA endorsed companies bring you special member savings on products and services designed specifically to work for your practice: from professional liability insurance to business credit cards to office supplies and computers. There are also endorsements geared towards your home life, such as health insurance, appliances, and even automobiles.

Many members are able to recoup a great deal of their dues dollars through the savings they receive by simply participating in these programs. Take advantage of the benefits of membership.

For more information about these programs, visit the [DCDS website](#).

The Dentists Supply Company, **TDSC.com** is an online-only alternative to shop for all your dental supply needs. Backed by Henry's Schein's vast distribution network, TDSC.com is for the pragmatic dental practice that is looking for a self-serve e-commerce option. TDSC.com aims to help independent dentists thrive by offering supplies and small equipment from trusted manufacturers at competitive prices for dental practices of every size.

The Benefits of Shopping with TDSC.com

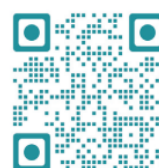
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When you purchase dental supplies and small equipment for your practice from TDSC.com you can reduce your supply costs and generate non-dues revenue for DCDS, 3% from every purchase DCDS members make on the site.

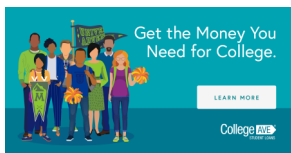


Do you or someone you know need a private student loan to help pay for college or graduate school?

The DC Dental Society, in partnership with College Ave, can help you, your family, staff members or others find the best student loan with a three-minute application, instant credit decision and no fees to apply. In addition, DC Dental Society members, friends and family receive a 0.25% interest rate discount on all in-school loans.¹

When grants, scholarships, savings, and federal student loans don't cover the full cost of college or graduate school, one option to cover the gap is with private student loans. Read the article from College Ave about how private student loans work and how to use them to help pay for college or graduate school.

[LEARN MORE](#)



How Private Student Loans Work

¹DC Dental Society Members receive a 0.25% interest rate reduction on In-school loans that are opened through the DC Bar member benefits portal. The DC Dental Society member discount will be applied to your loan account after the initial disbursement occurs.



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April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month

ADA Morning Huddle, April 1, 2024



This Oral Cancer Awareness Month, make sure your patients are educated about the disease. Here are some resources you can share to help start the conversation:

- [This oral cancer informational page](#) from MouthHealthy
- [This information](#) about the human papillomavirus vaccine from MouthHealthy.org
- [This video](#) from a patient named Sandy Wexler, who shares how her ADA dentist saved her life. Find more free resources for patients at www.MouthHealthy.org.

ADA symposium to empower dentists to be leaders in overall health

ADA Morning Huddle, March 27, 2024

Dentistry's Role in Complete Health will equip dental professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to play a pivotal role in addressing chronic health conditions. Led by a team of researchers, clinicians, authors and educators, the symposium will emphasize the mouth as the gateway to overall health and empower participants to be leaders in health care.

[Full Story: ADA Symposium Empowering Dentists to be Health Leaders](#)

New guide seeks to improve care for patients with developmental disabilities

ADA Morning Huddle, March 27, 2024

An alliance of advocates, doctor groups and other health care leaders released a plan to transform the experiences of people with developmental disabilities. The new National Roadmap for Disability-Inclusive Healthcare is designed to better prepare doctors, nurses and dentists to treat those with disabilities.

[Full Story: Guide to Improve Care for Patients with Developmental Disabilities](#)

Association supports data transparency of Medicare Advantage plans

ADA Morning Huddle, April 1, 2024

The ADA is responding to a request for information on Medicare Advantage data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services by emphasizing the importance of increasing data transparency and reporting from insurers. The Association said in a letter that the utilization of dental care through Medicare Advantage and related cost-sharing and marketing practices should be further examined since more than half of Medicare beneficiaries now choose these plans.

[Full Story: ADA Responds to Request for Information from CMS](#)

HHS appears poised to relaunch HIPAA compliance audits

ADA Finance and Operations Huddle, March 30, 2024

The U.S. Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights looks like it is poised to re-implement its audit program that randomly checks covered entities and business associates for compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

[Full Story: HHS Preparing Return of HIPAA Compliance Audits](#)

ADA calls for temporary relief from filing requirements

ADA Weekend Huddle, March 30, 2024

The ADA and more than 120 other trade associations signed on to a coalition letter calling for temporary relief from filing requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act.

[Full Story: ADA Joins Coalition Letter Calling for Corporate Transparency Act Reporting Pause](#)

Plaque bacteria found in half of colon cancers

ADA Morning Huddle, March 27, 2024

A type of bacteria found in dental plaque may be behind a treatment-resistant form of colorectal cancer, according to a study published in the journal *Nature*. The bacterium, called *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, appears to shield tumor cells from cancer-fighting drugs.

[Full Story: Plaque Bacteria Found in Colon Cancers](#)

Microplastics in arteries linked to increase in heart disease risk

ADA Morning Huddle, April 2, 2024

Microplastics and nanoplastics are everywhere – even in the fatty deposits called plaque that can build up in the arteries and cause cardiovascular disease and strokes. Researchers have found that in people with evidence of microplastics in the plaques, or atheromas, in their carotid arteries, the risk of heart attack, stroke or death was four-and-a-half times higher than in those whose plaque didn't contain plastic.

[Full Story: Microplastics in Arteries Linked to Increase in Heart Disease](#)

Code Maintenance Committee revises, adds new CDT codes

ADA Finance and Operations Huddle, March 30, 2024

Ten new codes and eight revisions, along with two deletions and four editorial changes, will be part of CDT 2025, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 2025.

[Full Story: New CDT Codes Regarding Restorations, Implants](#)

Dental Coding Live Workshop April 19 in Chicago

ADA Morning Huddle, April 2, 2024

Insurance is an important part of your office's revenue cycle, but it does not need to overwhelm your daily routine. Dental Coding and Insurance in One Day, a live workshop on April 19, is perfect for all team members who want to work together to get your claims paid. Learn how to manage your information and claims to minimize delays and rejections. Even your practice's more experienced coders will benefit from the documentation and updated codes section. [Register today.](#)

Maintain oral health even at an advanced age

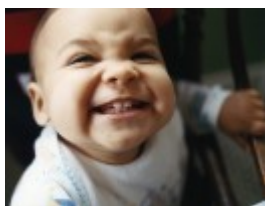
ADA Morning Huddle, March 29, 2024



Mobility issues can make brushing teeth a challenge for elderly patients. [Share this tip](#) for caregivers on how they can help. Find more free resources for patients at www.MouthHealthy.org.

Give your smallest patients a solid oral health foundation

ADA Morning Huddle, March 28, 2024



As soon as a baby's first teeth appear, it's time for them to have their first dental checkup! [Share these tips](#) for parents on how they can help their little ones prepare. Find more free resources for patients at www.mouthhealthy.org.

Classifieds

GP Practice - Washington DC

Description: FFS GP practice located in condo bldg. near Kennedy Center and the hospital. Condo is also for sale. 3 OP's. Great opportunity for satellite location. 780 S/F. Practice currently open 3 1/2 days/week. EasyDental, Extremely low overhead. Refers out all specialty procedures. Digital Pan.

Contact: John Turner | 410-935-4066 | edorner@gmail.com

DCDS Member Ads

FREE Employment Ad for DCDS Members. DCDS members who are seeking employment or who have open staff positions can place a classified ad at no charge. Click on the link below to get started.

Advertise with DCDS

Classified ads in the DCDS Newsletter are easy. Simply submit your ad through [the DCDS online form](#). We will then send you a payment link. Payment must be received prior to publication.