New ECP Facebook Page

A new Facebook page about the Extended Care Permit (ECP) for dental hygienists is available. The page was created by ECP hygienist and Dental Champion Patty Martinette in order to connect ECP Hygienists in Kansas and Missouri. The goal of the new page is to share information about how the permits are being used, as well as to establish community contacts to expand the use of the permits.

In 2003, oral health advocates worked together to pass the ECP law in order to establish dental hygiene services in community-based settings such as schools, disability organizations, and nursing facilities. The law has been amended twice over the last 10 year in to expand the populations that may be served by ECP hygienists and to expand the scope of practice for hygienists with a new ECP III permit. The ECP III permit will allow dental hygienists who receive additional training additional training to remove decay, place temporary fillings, and adjust dentures. The first ECP III training will begin this year. 140 Kansas dental hygienists currently hold Extended Care Permits.

Join the Facebook page and spread the word about this valuable forum to promote the ECP model.
The Kansas Legislature adjourned the regular legislative session on Friday, April 5. There will be a month-long break, and legislators will return on May 8 for a wrap-up session. Watch for a special legislative update newsletter tomorrow for details about the oral health and health issues Oral Health Kansas has been tracking.

The Science Guy Weighs in on Water Fluoridation

This week Bill Nye the Science Guy weighed in on the debate about water fluoridation currently underway in Portland, Oregon. He says that with water fluoridation, "You will live longer." Watch his statement about fluoridation on a Portland television interview.
Katie Couric Learns about Good Oral Health

In her web show "Katie's Take" last week, broadcaster Katie Couric discussed the importance of good oral health to good overall health with New York City dentist Jonathan Levine.

The two talked about the effects periodontal disease can have on many health conditions, and Dr. Levine offered tips for keeping your teeth healthy, including brushing and flossing daily and visiting the dentist regularly.

KanCare Troubleshooting Calls

The Department of Health and Environment holds three KanCare stakeholder troubleshooting calls each week. The calls offer opportunities for Medicaid providers and stakeholders to raise issues related to the state's transition to Medicaid managed care. Calls are scheduled from 9 to 10 am Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The conference call number is 877-247-8650, and the conference code is 79687456. Read more about the call schedule on the KanCare website.

Traveling Drink Display

Currently the Oral Health Kansas traveling library drink displays are on display at the Pawnee County Library and the Ashland Library.
Did You Know???

Most oral cancers are diagnosed AFTER age 60.

Join Our Mailing List!

If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to Julie.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org

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