SDDA Launches Emergency Department Referral Program

Working in cooperation with two of the state’s largest health care systems, the South Dakota Dental Association has created a referral program that aims to reduce the number of patients that return to a hospital emergency department (ED) with complaints about dental pain.

The number of patients in South Dakota who access an emergency department, with the chief complaint being dental pain, has been steadily growing over the past fifteen years. At issue is the fact that no definitive care can be provided by emergency room doctors – only the prescribing of medication for infection and pain relief. Cases involving trauma or having severe health consequences are immediately treated by dentists who are on staff at the hospital, but the majority of the cases are given palliative care and told to seek care from a dentist. Too often some of those patients don’t get the definitive dental care that is needed and they return to the emergency department within a few weeks.

Enter the SDDA’s Emergency Dental Care Referral Program. Beginning June 1, 2016 patients with dental needs and who seek care at Avera and Sanford emergency departments in South Dakota will no longer be told to just “see a dentist”. Instead the ED staff will refer the patient to the SDDA where our program manager will secure an appointment for the patient with a local dentist. The success of the program hinges on the participation of dentists in the local communities who will see the patient within four or five days in order to provide the pain relief that is needed. For the most part these appointments will involve a problem-focused exam, an x-ray and one or more extractions. The participation of endodontists allows some eligible teeth to be saved through a referral. The dentist will charge the patient for care, just as they would any other patient. Collection procedures will also be consistent with existing dental office policies. Any dental care needed beyond the immediate concern will have to be agreed upon between the dentist and the patient. In addition to private practice dentists, patients with the inability to pay will be referred to a community health center if one is located in the patient’s community.

Referral data and patient compliance will be tracked and shared with hospitals participating in the program. Adjustments to the program are expected to be made as more is known about the patients and their needs.

The dental emergency referral process:

1. The emergency department provides the patient with temporary pain relief (the recommendation is for a non-narcotic pain reliever) and, if needed an antibiotic for infection. The patient is referred to the South Dakota Dental Association for help in obtaining an appointment for dental care.
2. The Association gathers basic information from the patient about their health and dental condition.
3. The Association contacts a local dentist with the patient information. The dental office agrees to provide the patient with an appointment, during regular office hours, within five days.
4. The patient contacts the dental office, and an appointment is made.
5. At the appointment, the dentist provides emergent care only – unless more extensive care is agreed upon by the dentist and patient. Problem-focus exam, x-rays and extractions are expected to be the most common procedures. Payment is collected per the normal policies of the office.
6. Following the appointment the Association emails a short form to the dental office, through which the dental office reports the care provided and the corresponding value of the care provided, the status of the patient, etc.
St. Francis Mission Expecting a Big Summer—By Marty Jones, Dental Clinic Director

A big thanks to the Board of Trustees for allowing St Francis Mission Dental to share our message in the promotion of our clinic and the volunteer opportunities we are seeking. Also thanks to the district dental societies for the opportunity to share our plight. These engagements were a positive experience that allowed us to clear up misconceptions about our program and services and to promote our facility as a possible avenue for volunteering. We are pleased to share that in our outreach efforts we have commitments from seven new dentists and three past volunteer dentists. Together, we can make a difference!

This summer we will be hosting three weeks of student clinics: University of South Dakota Dental Hygiene and the University of Indiana College of Dentistry. This will be the first hosted USD student clinic. We are seeking volunteer dentist(s) the week of July 18th during the USD dental hygiene clinics. This could be a great opportunity for any retired dentists still carrying a license to perhaps do some light work in providing either new patient or recare exams. There would be one other available chair for restorative or emergency treatment if that volunteer desired.

This will be the third clinic rotation with the University of Indiana. All five operatories will be utilized and we set up a sixth portable chair and lab for a prosthodontic resident to fabricate dentures and flippers on-site. There will be 18 students and two supervisors.

We are looking forward to the President of the American Dental Association, Dr. Carol Summerhays, visiting our clinic program on July 15th, 2016 and we have a clinic scheduled that entire week.

Please watch for our upcoming 2017 clinic dates to be announced in the SDDA newsletter. Keep in mind those dates are arbitrary and we can generate a clinic anytime, based on any provider’s schedule. We would, however, appreciate a three-to-six month advance commitment if possible. This helps immensely if we need to provide support staff for any volunteering provider.

Currently, we are looking for volunteers for the week of August 15th to the 19th to support SFMD hosting the Delta Dental Mobile Program. We are financially supporting one bus to be on our SFM campus and would like to have an active clinic ongoing when the bus is on site to showcase the collaborative efforts. The next recruitment effort will be for two separate weeks in September, these clinic events were scheduled by the SDDA for Rosebud Dental Days.

Please visit our website www.sfmdental.org. Like us on Facebook SFM Dental Clinic.

Fundraising Results

Thanks to all who contributed to the Foundation/Annual Session fundraisers! Because of you, the Foundation Board was able to contribute to many worthwhile projects.

- Best for Last Raffle raised: $5,402.00
- Chinese Raffle raised: $14,301.96
- Golf Tournament raised: $769.88
- Silent Auction raised: $750.00

Total: $21,223.84

Best For Last Winners

$2,000 Winners! The last four raffle tickets drawn during the Best For Last Fundraiser on May 13 scored $2,000/each for Drs. Bruce Evans, Robert VanLaecken, Tami Kappenman and Ms. Jessi Horsley. Congratulations!
Sioux Empire Smiles to Again Help Children With Dental Needs

Southeastern District Dental Society is once again planning to help underserved children from the Sioux Falls area by providing free comprehensive dental care. **Sioux Empire Smiles 2016** is set for Saturday, October 1, 2016.

Last year’s event was the first of its kind in the area. Thirty-five SDDA member dentists, with the help of dental staff and lay volunteers, cared for 110 children, performing 700 procedures valued at more than $60,000. The clinic was a rewarding experience for all of the volunteers who came together with a common goal of providing dental care to underserved populations of children who cannot, for whatever reason, obtain care.

The Sioux Empire United Way has already committed $12,000 to this year’s event. Additional funds and in-kind support will be sought from local vendors and national dental supply companies.

“We are excited to offer this opportunity to children in our community who are in need of dental care,” said event organizer Dr. Damon Thielen. “I am inviting all of the dentists in the area to put October 1 on their calendar and participate in Sioux Empire Smiles,” he added.

The Southeastern District Dental Society is working in partnership with the Sioux Falls school district and local charitable organizations to identify children and families with dental needs that have difficulty getting to a dentist. The goal of the event is to serve up to 200 children with a focus on providing dental care to patients suffering from dental infections or pain.

In addition to helping children in need, the event is intended to influence government and society at large to work with dentistry to craft common sense solutions to dental access disparities for disadvantaged families in the Sioux Falls area.
CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR
Summer 2016

The listing of these programs is provided as a service to SDDA Newsletter subscribers, and does not mean that these programs have been endorsed or approved by the SD Dental Association or the SD State Board of Dentistry. All members are cautioned to evaluate the programs on their own merit.

SD DENTAL ASSOCIATION 2016 ANNUAL SESSION
Contact: Brenda Goeden 605-224-9133
www.sddental.org
May 18-20, 2017 Sioux Falls, SD
Registration forms will be included in the 2017 SDDA Spring Newsletter.

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
Contact: 605-718-2410

Third Friday of the Month, mornings
➢ American Heart Association CPR Class for Healthcare Professionals

Third Friday of the Month, afternoons
➢ American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR Recertification

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
Contact: Rhonda Bradberry 605-882-5284, ext. 214
bradberr@lakeareatech.edu

Home Study Radiology Courses available:
➢ Radiology Safety
➢ Radiography Production

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
Contact: Dept. of Dental Hygiene 605-677-5379

Home Study Radiology Courses available:
➢ Digital Radiography, Advantages & Disadvantages
➢ Exposure Errors of Periapicals & Bitewings
➢ Processing Errors
➢ Occlusal Exposures for Children
➢ Oral Effects of Head & Neck Radiation Therapy
➢ Panoramic Radiography
➢ Radiation Safety
➢ Vertical Bitewings
➢ Fluoride Varnish, Indication & Application

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