

# United States Public Health Service

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# Who Are We?

- One of the seven uniformed services
- A principle component of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Comprised of 6800+ highly trained and mobile health professionals
- Provide health care personnel to HHS and non-HHS agencies



# PHS in the News

- Release of the Surgeon General's report on skin cancer
- Selection of the new Surgeon General, VADM Viveck Murthy
- The deployment of PHS officers to provide direct patient care to health care workers who contracted Ebola in Liberia
  - CAPT Dean Coppola (NIH Dentist) OIC



# Ebola

- Liberia MMU



# CDO Responsibilities

- Lead dentist for the PHS and serve as the liaison for all corps dentists.
- Advise the Surgeon General of the United States about oral health matters that are of a concern to the profession and the general public.
- Chairs the Oral Health Coordinating Committee, which is comprised of HHS and non-HHS dental agencies





# Where Do USPHS Dentists Work?

- Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
- Indian Health Service (IHS)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
  - Division of Immigration Health Services (DIHS)
  - U.S. Coast Guard
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Department of Defense Tricare Management Activity (DOD TMA)
- Program Support Center (PSC)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Office of the Secretary (OS)



# Items of Interest—2015

- Infection control guidelines
- Community water fluoridation
- Strategic oral health framework
- Community oral health guide for elders



# Joint Commission

- JC proposed recommendations
  - Applied Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) standards (2014) to dental clinics/sterilization superseding the CDC Guideline for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings (2003)
  - Included restrictive limitations such as:
    - New PPE when entering the sterilization area
    - Positive pressure room for instrument storage
    - Negative pressure room for sterilization





# Dental Clinic Surveys: Clarification Regarding Infection Control and Environment of Care

The Joint Commission offers dental practices the opportunity to achieve accreditation as part of its Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation Program (if freestanding clinic) or under the Hospital Accreditation Program (if hospital affiliated). To promote a better understanding of standards compliance, The Joint Commission provides the following clarifying information for

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humidity in sterilization areas located within dental settings, this edition does recommend provisions for monitoring in the storage area. Also, the CDC's *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003* recommends using manufacturer and building code specifications to determine placement and ventilation requirements for sterilizers. Of course, if an organization is using

# CWF

- Recommendations for optimal levels of fluoride in drinking water were established in 1962 by the U.S. Public Health Service; they vary across six geographic temperature zones from 0.7 to 1.2 mg/L.
- In 2010, HHS convened an inter-departmental, inter-agency panel of scientists (HHS Panel) to review relevant scientific evidence and update the 1962 Public Health Service guideline for FI concentrations in drinking water in the United States.



# CWF

- In 2011, HHS proposed that community water systems that fluoridate their water adjust the fluoride concentration to 0.7 mg/L to maintain caries prevention benefits and reduce the risk of dental fluorosis.
- An expert panel was convened in the summer of 2014. The release of the new guidance is expected in 2015.



# Oral Health Strategic Framework

- In 2009, HHS asked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to convene a panel to recommend actions HHS could take to improve the state of oral health in America.
- IOM issued a report in April of 2011 titled *Advancing Oral Health in America*.
  - The IOM report points out that, despite HHS overseeing or funding a number of initiatives aimed at improving oral health care, support for these initiatives has been inconsistent and clear leadership has been lacking.



# Oral Health Strategic Framework

- The framework represents the federal government's commitment to oral health and includes two linked courses of action: (1) the development of a comprehensive action plan that outlines specific goals and strategies to more effectively target federal resources to advance oral health and (2) the alignment of federal activities across operating divisions.



# Community Guide to Adult Dental Program Implementation

- Administration of Community Living/Office of Women's Health (funding)
- Three-year project with Lewin
- How-to-guide for communities interested in starting an oral health program for older adults
- Collaborative with public and private partners





# Amalgam

- Minamata Convention—2013
- World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry
  - Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land (amalgam separators).
  - Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form.
  - Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration (IHS ECCC).



# Mission

To protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation through:

- Rapid and effective response to public health needs
- Leadership and excellence in public health practices
- Advancement of public health science

