

MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN THE DENTAL OFFICE

Course Description: This course is designed to satisfy the Kentucky State Dental Practice Act regarding "the identification and prevention of potential medical emergencies," as required for Dental Hygienists to work under general supervision. Commonly encountered medical emergencies are addressed. Emphasis is placed on the immediate, non-pharmacological aspects of care.

Objectives: Following this program, the participant should be able to:

- (1) anticipate common medical emergencies which may be manifest during a dental appointment and take appropriate preventive measures,
- (2) discuss related legal issues associated with medical emergencies,
- (3) discuss and recognize early warning signs of a variety of potential medical emergencies,
- (4) discuss and initiate appropriate emergency responses to common medical emergencies.

Registration

Introduction

- A. The Kentucky State Practice Act Requirement
- B. ASA Classifications

Prevention

- A. Physical evaluation
 1. medical history
 2. consultation/referral
 3. Risk factors for the occurrence of untoward events
- B. Emotional Evaluation
- C. Stress reduction

Planning and Preparation

- A. Office organization
- B. Staff training in CPR
- D. Emergency equipment/kits

Medical-Legal Considerations

- A. Employee-employer (agency)
- B. Records
- C. Health history
- D. Timely treatment (duty to provide)
- E. Abandonment
- F. Negligence (duty, breach, damages, proximate cause)

Recognition/Management of Specific Emergencies

- A. Cardiovascular problems
 1. syncope
 2. postural hypotension
 3. supine hypotension
 4. angina pectoris
 5. myocardial infarction
- B. Respiratory problems
 1. airway obstruction
 2. respiratory depression
 3. COPD
- C. Neurological
 1. hyperventilation
 2. seizures
 3. CVA
- D. Hypersensitivity reactions
 1. mild
 2. severe
- E. Cardiac Arrest/CPR
- F. Endocrine emergencies
 - 1 Diabetes Mellitus: Hyperglycemia and Hypoglycemia
 - 2 Thyroid dysfunction

Conclusion