

## Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

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### **Dental Board to Host Infection Control Discussion**

*'An act of prevention' will focus on protection for patient, provider*

BALTIMORE, MD (April 26, 2006) -- In an effort to draw attention to the importance of infection control practices, the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners is hosting a one-day training session that will focus on the benefits of proper procedures to protect the provider and the patient. It will be held on Friday April 28 at the Patapsco Arena in Baltimore.

This event, called *Infection Control Discussion – An Act of Prevention*, is a unique attempt by the Dental Board to improve the compliance of infection control guidelines in dental practices.

“Even though we have seen a decrease in the number of reported incidents, the board still receives complaints,” said Board President Dr. Eric Katkow. “This seminar provides a great opportunity to reinforce the importance of infection control procedures in the dental setting to ensure that patients are protected.”

Dr. William G. Kohn, lead author and editor of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings-2003*, will be the principal speaker. His talk will center on meaningful interpretations and highlights of the guidelines. Dr. Kohn is the associate director for science of the Division of Oral Health at CDC.

William Grabau, a Certified Industrial Hygienist and trainer with the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health agency, will discuss Maryland's infection control practices in relation to those recommended by the federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

A panel discussion that includes a board investigator, a lawyer from the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, and board-designated Infection Control Dental Practice will follow.

The principal speakers will then join the panel for a question and answer session.

Other agenda items include a recently disciplined dentist who will relate his experiences, and the screening of a short video entitled *If Saliva Were Red*.

Those involved in direct patient care in the dental community, including, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and other dental office or dental clinic staff members have been invited.

*Disclaimer: the views and opinions of the participants in this discussion may not reflect the views and opinions of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners or the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.*

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