

“When You Can’t Walk Away: Identifying Human Trafficking”

Do you know that life is happening all around us, and often we are caught up in our daily routine, and don’t recognize the signs? One example is human trafficking, which is often referred to as modern-day slavery. According to the Polaris Project, “Research shows that the majority of human trafficking survivors had some contact with the health care system during the time they were being exploited”. Other situations that you may encounter include domestic violence and child abuse.

Would you be aware of key indications of trafficking or abuse when interacting with your patients? These victims may seek dental care for many reasons linked to these abusive situations. If identified during the delivery of healthcare, is this crime reportable to law enforcement? Would you have available resources to help provide direction to those who are seeking to escape? Building relationships and trust, combined with excellent clinical evaluation skills and availability of appropriate resources, you may possibly save a life.

Because you can’t just walk away from patient care, join this session to take the first step in identifying and providing help for those who may be victims.

Through this session we will:

1. Discuss key terms and individuals who may be targeted for human trafficking or other abusive situations.
2. Recognize potential warning signs, and patterns for those who are struggling, need support, or may be in
3. danger.

Identify reporting processes and support systems for individuals who may be victims.

“Clearing the Confusion: The Difference Between Maintaining DUWLs and Evacuation Lines”

Dental professionals often hear the terms dental unit waterlines (DUWLs) and evacuation lines used interchangeably—but they are not the same and confusing them can lead to serious compliance and safety issues. This session clarifies the critical differences between these two essential systems and provides practical guidance for maintaining each according to current CDC recommendations, manufacturer instructions, and industry best practices.

Participants will gain a clear understanding of how DUWLs deliver water used during patient care and why their maintenance focuses on microbial control, biofilm prevention, and routine testing to ensure water meets EPA drinking water standards. In contrast, evacuation lines manage suction and waste removal, requiring effective enzymatic cleaning and line maintenance protocols to prevent buildup, odors, and cross-contamination. Whether you are new to dental infection control or a seasoned safety

coordinator, this fast-paced, interactive session will equip you with actionable strategies to maintain safe, effective, and compliant water and evacuation systems in your practice.

Learning Objectives:

1. Differentiate between dental unit waterlines and evacuation lines in function and maintenance.
2. Describe evidence-based protocols for maintaining and monitoring DUWLs.

Identify proper cleaning and maintenance methods for evacuation lines.

“Safety Stuff That Matters! OSHA Safety + Infection Control Review”

While rewarding, providing oral healthcare is not without risk. Would you change your view of safety measures if you could see the invisible risks? This presentation will provide a peek into cross-contamination both during and after patient care. Strategies will be shared to ensure worker and patient safety, because this is safety stuff that matters!

During this session, we will:

- Recall signs, symptoms, and mode of transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.
- Discuss the risks of exposure specific to bloodborne pathogens and prevention methods.
- Discuss basic infection control principles applicable to dental practices, including surface disinfection and respiratory hygiene.
- Recall four (4) critical steps in instrument processing.