Arizona Innovations to Increase Access to Oral Health Care
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Policy Change in Access to Care

• Scope of practice change for dental hygienists
Policy Changes

• HB 2058 – changed the supervision scope of practice for dental hygienists.
  – A DENTAL HYGIENIST MAY PRACTICE UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A Licensed PHYSICIAN IN AN INPATIENT HOSPITAL SETTING.
  – WHETHER OR NOT THE PHYSICIAN IS PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT THE HOSPITAL.
  – SUPERVISE DENTAL ASSISTANTS, INCLUDING DENTAL ASSISTANTS WHO ARE CERTIFIED.

History behind the Bill

Volunteer project with a charitable organization.
Ventilator Associated Pneumonia

- Most common nosocomial infection in ICU
  - Longer intubation results in higher risk
- Cause is aspiration of oral bacteria
- VAP increases length of hospital stays
- CDC evidence-based guidelines for reducing VAP.

CDC Guidelines: [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00045365.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00045365.htm)
Building Partnerships

- Physicians
- Dentists
- Nurses
- Hospitals

Recent Developments

- Three ICU Critical Care Dental Hygienist job positions at a regional hospital opened in February, 2019.
- Will allow the hospital to seek reimbursement for services through medical billing due to the physician supervision change.
Challenges

- Arizona Medicaid
- Medicare

Opportunities & Next Steps
- Educational component
- Long Term Care
THANK YOU

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