



Ohio Dental Practice Based Research Network

The Direct Observation Study Update and Current Status

The observation teams are continuing to visit practices of network members in the area. For the winter months, the visits have been close to Cleveland. Once spring returns, we will again include offices that are further away. As of the 1st of February we have scheduled or visited 72 practices in northern Ohio. If you have not yet been called, it is likely that you will hear from us in the next few months as we schedule the balance of the practices needed to reach our goal of 120.

We have begun to look at data from the first 30 practices visited and will provide some of this data to the steering committee when it meets in the next

few weeks. We should be able to provide a list of procedures done for patients, rank ordered for frequency, together with some observations about the functions of the dentist, hygienist and auxiliary staff. We also will explore what data about individual offices will be most useful to report back to individual dentists. Some early ideas are to provide a map of the distribution of patients for each practice, an analysis of practice style based on estimates of efficiency, satisfaction, patient comfort, and prevention, and a rank order of procedures utilized, an estimate of case mix and a patient age distribution for each practice. If you have ideas for additional

data that would be useful about your practice, please let us know. (sxw2@case.edu)

The preliminary data is very exciting. As of now, our plan is to have a meeting of the entire network in late fall or early winter to share our findings once all of the data is collected. We don't want to do it sooner because of the concern that the release of results may bias the behavior of practices not yet visited. Your cooperation has been essential for the accomplishment of this landmark study and is greatly appreciated. I am hopeful that our network will assume a leadership role in defining dental practice.

Steering Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held February 16, 2005 at The Wolstein Research Building. If you wish to be part of the Steering Committee and attend future meetings please e-mail vah4@case.edu

Staff:

Stephen Wotman, DDS
 Marisa Abbe, MA
 Howard Bailit, DMD, PhD
 Edward Callahan, PhD
 Benjamin Crabtree, PhD
 Catherine Demko, PhD
 Susan Flocke, PhD
 Victoria Hirsch
 Donna Homenko, RDH, PhD
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 Marlene Rodriguez, RDH
 Danny Sawyer, DDS, PhD
 Marianne Scherry, RDH
 Becky Slivka
 Kurt Stange, MD, PhD
 Joseph Sudano, PhD
 Jim Werner, PhD
 Joy Wiedemann, MA
 Kristin Williams, DDS
 Kristin Zakariasen, DDS



Direct Observation Staff

Tom Parma, Marisa Abbe, Dr. Kristin Williams, Dr. Catherine Demko, Dr. Stephen Wotman, Dr. Kristin Zakariasen, Tori Hirsch, Dr. Joe Sudano (Pictured L to R)



CASE

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Network Steering Committee:

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- Rudolph Braydich, DDS
- Robert Doty, DDS
- Gene Henderson, DDS
- Sharon Henderson, DDS
- James Houston, DDS
- Ernest Mastroianni, DDS
- Douglas Matthews, DDS
- Kenneth Novak, DDS
- Lawrence Oswick, DDS
- Madge Potts-Williams, DDS
- Alan Psota, DDS
- Marybeth Shaffer, DMD
- Robert Skiffey, DDS

Weatherhead researchers to work with dental practice network on enhancing professional effectiveness

Looking to improve your effectiveness in practice management, your home, your life? Help may be on the way.

Researchers from Case's Weatherhead School of Management are looking at executive coaching approaches that best support increased job satisfaction, professional growth, and lower stress among dental practitioners.

Dentists who were visited as part of the observation study of the CWRU Northern Ohio Dental Practice Research Network will be invited to participate in a new research study on executive coaching that begins this spring. The study will examine ways in which executive coaching can support the professional growth and success of study participants.

The study has been designed to be synergistic with work already being done by Case researchers to increase our understanding on the dynamics of dental practice management. Researchers for the Weatherhead study are Professor Richard E. Boyatzis in the Department of Organizational Behavior and ORBH doctoral candidate, Anita Howard.

Direct Observation Study Participants-

Wanted: Ideas for Study Feedback

Thanks to the participating dental practices who have made the Direct Observation Study a great success. Data collection has been completed in more than 60 practices to date. We would like to provide information concerning what was found in your own practice, but we need your input.

The study has yielded a wealth of interesting

data, and we would like to create a tool to provide feedback that will be useful for you. One type of information we can provide for each participating practice is a GIS (Geographic Information System) map depicting for example, patient population compared to a variety of census data.

In addition, it is likely that we can provide comparisons of spe-

cific data elements collected in your practice to the aggregate data for all of the participating practices. Some providers find such peer-based comparisons useful.

Please let us know what kind of feedback would be valuable by completing the enclosed form and fax it to Tori Hirsch as indicated on the form.