



**ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM:**

**Activities of the Oral Health Program**

The Oral Health Program is investigating the potential of telemedicine as an instrument for improving the oral health of the people of Indiana.

**Continuing Education Courses Available Through IN-TRAIN**

The Oral Health Program currently has two online CE Courses using IN-TRAIN. Instructions for taking these courses can be found by following the links provided on the Oral Health Program website: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26868.htm>. If you have any questions on completing these courses, please contact Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov).

**Upcoming Events**

The next Indiana Oral Health Coalition (IOHC) meeting will be held at the Indiana State Department of Health, 5th floor conference room 5T, from 10 a.m. to noon on June 2.

**Health Awareness Months As They Pertain To Dental Care:**

**A**pril is **National Autism Awareness Month**. Providing oral care to people with autism requires adaptation of the skills you use every day. Although working with patients with Autism can be challenging, it is important to remember that it can also be highly rewarding. For more information on Autism, visit the following website from the Autism Society:



<http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/>

**M**ay is **National Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Month**. In rare cases, melanomas appear in the mouth, iris of the eye, or retina at the back of the eye. These may be found during dental or eye exams. For more information on Melanoma and other forms of skin cancer, visit the following website from the US Department of Health and Human Services:



<http://healthfinder.gov/NHO/MayToolkit2.aspx>

**J**une is **PTSD Awareness Month**. Anxiety disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), are serious conditions with oral health implications that can be treated with a variety of methods. Many organizations and resources can help both individuals and professionals discover ways to identify and manage PTSD symptoms. For more information on PTSD, visit the website of the US Department of Veterans Affairs:



[http://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/ptsd-awareness/ptsd\\_awareness\\_month.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/ptsd-awareness/ptsd_awareness_month.asp)

**ORAL HEALTH TOPIC:**

**Antibiotic Prescribing in Dentistry:**

Antibiotic resistance is a growing problem, and the main cause of this problem is misuse of antibiotics<sup>1</sup>. These drugs have been used so widely and for so long that the infectious organisms the antibiotics are designed to kill have adapted to them, making the drugs less effective<sup>2</sup>.

More information for this topic may be found at the links below:

✓ **ADA Combating Antibiotic Resistance**

[http://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(14\)61234-4/pdf](http://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(14)61234-4/pdf)

✓ **CDC Checklist for Antibiotic Prescribing in Dentistry**

<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/downloads/dental-fact-sheet-final.pdf>

✓ **Best Practices for Dentists Prescribing Antibiotics**

<https://blogs.cdc.gov/safehealthcare/cdc-osap-issue-best-practices-for-dentists-prescribing-antibiotics>



The OHP would like to thank Janae Meyers, Antibiotic Stewardship Epidemiologist, for the following list of links to helpful websites with resources for antibiotic stewardship.

- **Antibiotic Stewardship**
- **Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Resistance-Overview**
- **Print Materials for Healthcare Professionals**
- **Protecting Patients and Stopping Outbreaks**

**REFERENCES:**

1. **Get Smart-Know When Antibiotics Work.** CDC. Retrieved 2/8/2017
2. **Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Resistance.** CDC. Retrieved 2/8/2017

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**REMINDERS:**

The **Oral Health Topic** section of the newsletter is suitable for the general public and may be shared with your patients or people in your community interested in oral health. We welcome any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in this section. Suggestions may be made to Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov).

These newsletters are archived on the OHP website at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18695.htm> under the section entitled **Newsletters**. This website contains other information about oral health that may be of interest to you, your patients, and your community.

Note: If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please contact Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov) or Patty Morris at [PMorris@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:PMorris@isdh.IN.gov).

**Disclaimer:** The materials provided in the Oral Health Topic's section are for informational purposes only. Individuals should see an oral health professional to discuss any specific oral health issues.