

AMERICAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

(Example)

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ADEQUACY OF DENTAL RECORDS USED IN CLINICAL PRACTICE.
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Quality assurance is an important aspect of dental education and clinical dental practice. Evaluation of the dental record can be a valuable component of quality assurance since it provides a comprehensive history of patient care. While several organizations have developed guidelines for acceptable quality in the dental record, little research on the use of such guidelines has been conducted. In 1987, the American Dental Association (ADA) published its recommendations for structure and guidelines of the dental record. The purposes of this study were: 1) determine dentists' perception of the adequacy of their record documentation, and 2) compare this perception with the ADA structure and guidelines criteria. A 20-item questionnaire was used to survey a random sample of 750 Minnesota dentists. Of the surveys returned, 63% (N=475) had been completed for analysis. Data analyses, including frequencies and tests of chi-square, were conducted using Stateview and SPSS. Four hundred three dentists (85%) considered their records to adequately meet ADA criteria. Statistically significant differences ($p < .05$) occurred between dentists' perception of record adequacy and the presence or absence of ADA criteria for several primary record components. For these components, information was absent, on average, 43% of the time. It could be concluded from this study that: 1) a discrepancy exists between dentists' perception of dental record adequacy and ADA recommendations for structure and guidelines and 2) inadequate dental record components should be targeted for improvement.

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- Yes No

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- Yes No

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- Yes No

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