



Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association

Lobby Day 2016 Issues of Interest -April 27, 2016

Dental Therapist and Dental Hygiene Therapists

- Please see separate informational sheet.

Infant Mortality

- The Department of Health has identified Ohio as one of the worst states in the nation for infant mortality.
- Part of the issue is babies are being born pre-term or prior to the 39th week of pregnancy.
- One significant topic related to infant mortality that is not widely discussed is the mother's oral health.
- "Maternal periodontitis has been linked to adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as preterm birth, low birth weight, growth restriction, and preeclampsia."
- We applaud the General Assembly and the Administration's effort to require enhanced care management services for both pregnant and non-pregnant women in the most high-risk neighborhoods as a strategy to improve the health status and future birth outcomes.
- **The Department of Medicaid should consider requiring, or at least encouraging, dental cleanings for all expectant mothers covered by Medicaid to help improve this important health indicator.**

Job market/Job opportunities/practice limitations

- Many hygienists are facing challenges in finding/landing/keeping a job because of a lack of open positions.
- The state can encourage students to go into dental hygiene, but the jobs aren't there after graduation
- Many hygienists are dual licensed in surrounding states with less restrictive practice acts.
- Hygienists should have less restrictions to be able to be hired directly by nursing homes, hospitals, schools. This will generate jobs and lower overall health care costs.