Dental Amalgam
Waste Reduction
Initiative in Ontario

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Dental Waste Management Training Tool for the Dental Team

- Recent Developments on Dental Amalgam wastes
- Facilitation of the Working Group
- Information Review Committee
- Next Steps & Challenges
Why Dental Waste Management for the Dental Team

- Needs of the Dental Team
- Focus on all hazardous dental wastes including Mercury Dental Amalgams
- No tool exists that covers the full scope of dental wastes in curriculum
- Dentists are often the employers and decision makers
Why Dental Waste Management for the Dental Team (cont.)

- Dental Assistants are usually the front line workers dealing with dental wastes
- Dental Hygienists deal with dental wastes to a lesser degree
Regulatory and Other Developments

- MOU respecting the implementation of the CWS on Mercury for Dental Amalgam Waste
- City of Toronto’s new sewer use bylaw
  - 0.01mg/L of Hg undiluted effluent concentration
  - effective June 30, 2002
  - ISO 11143 certified amalgam separator
  - pollution prevention plans - Dec. 31, 2001
  - Jan. 2002 - 40% to 55% reduction in [Hg] from 2001 average
Regulatory and Other Developments (cont.)

- Toronto Fate of Mercury Amalgam Study
  - conducted by University of Toronto
  - study confirmed that ISO 11143 amalgam separators are effective (up to 99.4% removal)
  - however ISO 11143 amalgam separators may not assure compliance with 0.01mg/L bylaw
  - concluded that regulation by wastewater concentration is impractical due to temporal and other factors
Dental Waste Management Working Group

■ Purpose
  • EC facilitate the development of a dental waste management training tool to reduce dental amalgam and other dental wastes
  • establish partnerships with stakeholders
  • support CWS on mercury amalgam

■ Scope
  • professional associations, schools and practitioners in Ontario
Dental Waste Management Working Group (cont.)

- **Working Group members**
  - Ontario Dental Association
  - Ontario Dental Hygienist Association
  - Ontario Dental Nurses & Assistants Association
  - University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry
  - University of Western Ontario, School of Dentistry
  - George Brown College, Dental Program
Dental Waste Management Working Group (cont.)

- **Working Group members**
  - Niagara College, Dental Program
  - Durham College, Dental Program
  - Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario
  - College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario
  - Ministry of the Environment and Energy
  - City of Toronto
  - Environment Canada - EPB-OR
Partnerships established and expanded

Outreach tools - website etc...

Scope of Training Material established
  - address all hazardous dental wastes
  - historical perspective
  - reflect CWS-MOU agreement
  - support provincial hazardous waste management regulations and municipal bylaws
Dental Waste Management Working Group - Progress (cont.)

Final Product

- effective and readable - should be useful to practicing members of the dental team
- two versions - a comprehensive teacher’s guide and a simplified learner’s guide
- web based version
- self learning kit for rural practitioners
- up to date - adaptable to changing regulatory requirements and standards
Information Review Committee

- **Purpose**
  - convened to review relevant information resources available
  - report to working group with draft

- **Information Resources being reviewed**
  - ODA’s Best Management Practices manual
  - MOU for mercury in dental amalgam waste
  - professional standards of practice
  - regulatory documents
Information Review Committee

Progress

- ODA’s BMP manual being used as foundation document
- Regulatory framework and definitions updated and refined
- Structure of training material refined
  - use of flowcharts, checklists, glossary
- CSA’s standards on Sharps Containers
Information Review Committee Progress (cont.)

- General Office Waste management
- Alternatives to chemical cleaning agents
- List of certified hazardous waste haulers
- Stores of elemental Hg management issue
Information Review Committee

Members

- Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto
- Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario
- College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario
- Ontario Dental Association
- George Brown College, Dental Assistant Program
- Ministry of the Environment and Energy
- Environment Canada, EPB-OR
Next Steps

- Complete information review & prepare 1st draft of training tool
- Working group consider recommendations and resolve information gaps/options
- Working group to develop assessment tools in support of the training tool
- Final Draft of training tool prepared by December, 2002
Challenges

- Design final product to be updatable
- Obtaining consensus (working group)
- Ownership of final product
- Financing publication and distribution
- Time Constraints
- Access to certified hazardous waste haulers