



Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
AFT Healthcare Local 5017
www.ofnhp.org



RDH News & Updates

News and Updates from the RDH Bargaining Unit

August 2011

As Summer draws to a close, I hope you've all been able to get out and enjoy some of it! Now that Fall is kicking into gear, we'll be seeing more union activity, with Steward trainings starting again in October, an all-member meeting later this month, and an increased focus on contract bargaining as we get closer to 2012. Here are a few updates on some of the issues our Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH) are working with.

ADR fixes, underway, ongoing

Some corrections already made, others soon to come

Several of the important enhancements and corrections that our members have suggested to the ADR advisory group have already been made, and many more have just been approved. We'll be able to see some of the upcoming changes as early as this month, with more in October and still more that have been approved but haven't yet been scheduled.

One of the changes that will be coming in the Fall is that the Front Desk will have access to Electronic Health Records (EHR). This small change will make a dramatic positive difference in patient flow for hygienists, allowing the front desk to do treatment planning like hygienists can from the back, meaning that hygienists can spend more time in patient care.

A future change that has been approved but not yet scheduled is for DMAs and QBs at the dental offices to have the ability to book Perio appointments 150 days out. This, too, will help manage patient flow and mitigate hassles for our perio hygienists.

The hygienist group has given management strong feedback about the stress being caused by the ADR system, and the negative impact of that stress on

Updates from the RDH Bargaining Team

The contract bargaining team for our unit met again on Tuesday, August 16. The team will be dividing up into subgroups to handle contract language changes, prioritizing our issues, and creating a timeline before bargaining.

We had a great response to our bargaining survey, and we're excited to have your comments and strong data to guide us as we move forward.

In the next few weeks, your Stewards will be asking you to verify your personal contact information for our records. Having the most current information possible

patient care. It's difficult to provide excellent customer service when we do not have the additional time needed to address the learnings and system changes required by ADR.

Though we're pleased that management is making the small changes we have requested, and that Phase 2 of the rollout is on hold until the kinks of Phase 1 get worked out, the situation remains stressful.

Bargaining Council to meet in October

The Bargaining Council is a larger group of hygienists who advise the Bargaining Team on what our key issues are for bargaining. All of our members are welcome and encouraged to participate -- we can't represent you without knowing what you think! The meeting will be October 13, 6pm, at the Grand Avenue Dental Office. Please come!

will be important during the bargaining process. If we need to get your opinion on an issue quickly, we need to have our communications system ready to go.

So please double-check your home e-mail and phone number when your Steward comes asking for it, or provide new info if we don't already have it. OFNHP does not share or otherwise distribute our members' personal information.