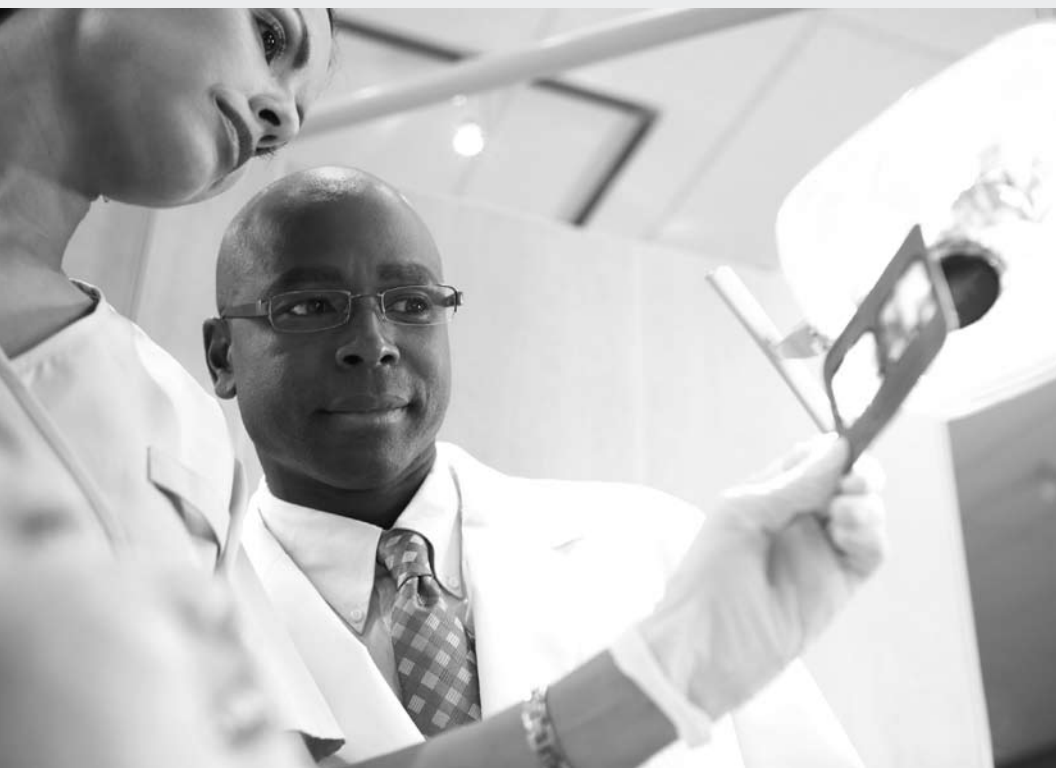


Understanding Organized Dentistry

A Guide for Dental Schools and Dental Students



ADA American Dental Association®

America's leading advocate for oral health

The American Dental Association is America's leading advocate for oral health!

American Dental Association members stand together as a profession to represent dentistry and improve oral health through our advocacy and public education initiatives, to foster excellence in dental education, to promote dental research, and to facilitate development of standards.

Public health, sound science, ethical professional behavior, and continuous improvement in oral health care are what the ADA stands for. Dental students and dentists are part of it all as members of the American Dental Association!

Our Mission:

The ADA is the professional association of dentists committed to the public's oral health, ethics, science and professional advancement; leading a unified profession through initiatives in advocacy, education, research and the development of standards.

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America's leading advocate for oral health

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What is Organized Dentistry?

Organized dentistry describes the combined efforts of all the organizations that work to positively contribute to the dental profession. It encompasses the efforts of ADA members, staff and supporters at the local, state and national level, known as the tripartite. In addition, organized dentistry reflects the efforts of organizations which serve a particular group, like the American Student Dental Association or the American Academy of Periodontology. Through these organized systems, we can advance the profession and better serve the public.

ADA Membership

Membership in the American Dental Association is available to dentists, dental students, dental educators and researchers. Pre-doctoral dental students join the ADA through the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and a portion of dues goes to the ADA.

Student Membership

As a member of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and the ADA, students are entitled to all the publications, benefits and services of both organizations. How is this possible for \$72 in dues? Since only \$5 goes the ADA, ADA member dentists, knowing the positive impact ADA membership can have on dental students' education and career, support the cost of student member benefits and services.

Tip: See last page for more information on the ASDA and ADA relationship.



Understanding the Tripartite

For more than 90 years, the ADA, together with state and local dental societies, has functioned as a three-tiered system called the tripartite. While retaining their autonomy as dental associations, the national, state (constituent) and local (component) organizations work together for members.

With a few exceptions (such as dental students), ADA members hold membership at all three levels.

For example, if a dentist practices in Chicago, s/he would be a member of the Chicago Dental Society, the Illinois State Dental Society, and the national ADA. Dentists usually join and renew their dues through the state dental society.

Tripartite membership is mutually supportive and provides a consistent voice in lobbying activities, supports uniform educational standards, promotes ethical dental practice and allows us to coordinate activities. Specific member benefits are offered at each of the three levels.

Tip: Your state society may offer student membership (for a low rate – many don't charge any dues at all!)

Reduced dues for new graduates

New graduates ease into membership with reduced national dues from the ADA.

Year 1 – \$0

Year 2 – 25% of full national dues

Year 3 – 50% of full national dues

Year 4 – 75% of full national dues

Year 5 and thereafter – 100% of full national dues

Students who go into a graduate program following dental school pay just \$30 national dues per year and begin the reduced dues program when their graduate education is complete.

Tip: The ADA Reduced Dues Program requires continuous membership. Many state and local dental societies also offer reduced dues for new graduates.

What should I expect to pay in dues after the five years?

Depending on your location, full tripartite member dues currently vary from \$900 to \$1,800. The ADA national portion of that total was \$498 in 2009.

Count on the ADA Throughout Your Career

Turn to your professional association for resources and support at every stage of your professional life. As a member, you can:

Support and protect the profession

Increased funding for research, dental care for underserved populations and public health initiatives are the result of advocacy efforts.

Keep the public informed

From “Dudley the Dinosaur” Public Service Announcements to consumer information on ADA.org to Give Kids A Smile Day, the ADA is out there, everyday! And the ADA Seal of Acceptance gives the public information about the safety and effectiveness of consumer products.

Make informed decisions

The ADA *Professional Product Review*™ (PPR) provides dental product information that is unbiased, scientifically sound, clinically relevant and user-friendly.

Get the latest dental news

Members stay up-to-date with the monthly *Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)*, bimonthly *ADA News*, and members-only content of ADA.org. ADA members also have access to financial services, group insurance and retirement programs. ADA Annual Session, reduced rates on ADA Catalog products, Survey Center reports, Library services and more all help members stay current! Visit www.ada.org/goto/member for details.

Feel at home no matter your area of expertise

ADA membership is available to dentists in private practice, community health centers, academics, research, dental manufacturing, military and Public Health Service, among others. Affiliate membership is open to dentists in other countries, and a small number of non-dentists or non-practicing dentists hold membership, as well.

The ADA—Putting the Pieces Together

The ADA is 157,000 members strong. And every member has a voice—and a way to make that voice heard. Here's how:

The ADA is made up of 545 component (local) and 53 constituent (state) dental societies. Those constituent societies are grouped into trustee districts—there are 17 trustee districts in total.

The Board of Trustees includes one trustee from each of the 17 districts, along with the ADA president, president-elect, two vice president-treasurers, and the executive director. The speaker of the House of Delegates serves as parliamentarian to the Board. The Board of Trustees is the managing body of the ADA.

The legislative and governing body, the supreme authority is the ADA House of Delegates, which meets once each year during the ADA Annual Session. The 464 members of the House of Delegates are chosen by the 53 constituent societies, the five federal dental services and the American Student Dental Association.

And finally, there are thirteen Councils and Commissions, as well as two standing Committees, all described in this publication. Volunteer leaders serving in this capacity focus on specific subjects, such as scientific affairs or the concerns of new dentists.



Formulating ADA Policy—The Resolution Process

The ADA is a member-driven organization, meaning that members can—and do—formulate the policies of the association. Similar to federal government, your leaders voice concerns of their constituents for action in the form of resolutions.

Resolutions can be initiated by:

- Members of the ADA Board of Trustees
- Delegates to the ADA House of Delegates
- Constituent (state) dental societies
- Trustee Districts
- Other groups (such as specialty organizations or philanthropic groups—subject to review and approval by the Speaker and the House of Delegates)

For instance, say you support a policy that all U.S. dental schools be encouraged to give each graduating student a cheeseburger.

Your first step is to find someone to put forth the resolution.

While members may contact anyone in leadership, it's often easier to work with those who share your goals. ASDA brings resolutions to the ADA House of Delegates, so working through ASDA is one option. The constituent society where your dental school is located is another option, or bringing the issue to the attention of an appropriate ADA Council is a third. Some resolutions take more effort than others.

Resolutions go to the ADA Board of Trustees for comment—so the Board will have an opportunity to support your resolution or recommend against it. No matter what the level of Board support, the resolution will go to the ADA House of Delegates for consideration. There, it is assigned to a reference committee for further discussion during ADA Annual Session. Reference committee meetings are free and open to all members, so you may attend and speak on behalf of the resolution if you wish and may encourage others to do so, as well.

Reference committees address specific topic areas (for example, there is a reference committee for education and licensure) assess the assigned resolutions and provide guidance to the House of Delegates who then vote—congratulations, the resolution was approved unanimously!

The ADA Board of Trustees assigns the implementation of the resolution to the appropriate agency or division of the ADA.

Tip: Members can view policies at www.ada.org/goto/hod or www.ada.org/goto/policies.

The ADA Councils and Commissions

Committee on the New Dentist

Because the ADA recognizes that the concerns and needs of a new dentist are unique, the ADA created the Special Commission on the Young Professional (CYP) in 1986.

The Commission has since evolved, and is now a standing committee of the ADA Board of Trustees—the Committee on the New Dentist (CND). The CND is composed of one member from each of the 17 ADA trustee districts. It works to address issues that concern and impact new dentists (dentists out of school less than ten years), to involve new dentists in organized dentistry, and to help ensure new dentists' success in a rapidly changing world.

The CND serves new dentists in many ways. It gives the ADA Board of Trustees, Councils, and Commissions insight from the new dentist perspective. Each year, CND members serve as *ex officio* (non-voting) members to ADA Councils as well as the ADPAC Board, and the chair of the Committee serves on the ADA Strategic Planning Committee.

The New Dentist Committee Network (NDCN) is made up of more than 200 state and local committees composed of and working for new dentists. This network provides a vital communication resource between the ADA and new dentists, as well as a forum for new dentists to discuss their issues and concerns.

The annual ADA New Dentist Conference, leadership development, online CE, webinars and podcasts, as well as the quarterly publication, *ADA New Dentist News* are all part of the Committee's work.

Commission on Dental Accreditation

The mission of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) is to serve the public by establishing, maintaining and applying standards that ensure the quality and continuous improvement of dental and dental-related education and reflect the evolving practice of dentistry. The scope of the CODA encompasses dental, advanced dental and allied dental education programs.

Dental education accreditation, initiated in the early 1900s, is conducted today by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, which operates under the auspices of the ADA. It is a peer review mechanism that involves members of the discipline, the broad educational community, employers, practitioners, the dental licensing community and public members. All of these groups participate in a process designed to ensure education quality.

Commission on Dental Accreditation *continued*

Members of the Commission are selected by the participating organizations. There are 30 members on the Board of Commissioners. The Commission membership reflects a wide geographic distribution and includes both genders and under-represented ethnic groups. For example, the Commission is composed of representatives from the ADA, American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE), American Dental Education Association (ADEA), postdoctoral general dentistry, all nine recognized dental specialties, as well as from the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL), the general public and a student member.

All commissioners serve one four-year term, except for the student commissioner who serves one two-year term.

Activities for the Commission include formulating and approving accreditation standards by which programs are evaluated; establishing policies and procedures for conducting the accreditation program; determining and publicizing program accreditation status; and appointing consultants and site visitors to assist in accreditation activities.

Council on Dental Education and Licensure

While the ADA recognizes and supports each state's right to regulate dental licensure, it has adopted policies on licensure issues, including freedom of movement for dentists, increased standardization of clinical licensing examinations, specialty licensure and the use of human subjects in clinical examinations. The Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) is one of the policy-recommending agencies of the ADA. CDEL studies and makes recommendations on policy for dental and allied dental education; dental licensure; recognition of special areas of dental practice; dental anesthesiology, continuing dental education. The Council also oversees the ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) and career guidance activities related to recruitment and retention, especially underrepresented ethnically and racially diverse dentists into dentistry and allied dental careers. CDEL is composed of members appointed by the ADA as well as the American Dental Education Association and the American Association of Dental Examiners.

Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations

Specific dental licensure requirements vary among jurisdictions, but all jurisdictions require an educational, written and a clinical examination. The National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) is intended to fulfill or partially fulfill the written examination requirements, but acceptance of National Board scores is at the discretion of the state. The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) is the agency responsible for the development and administration of the NBDEs. The Commission includes representatives of dental schools, dental practice, state dental examining boards, dental hygiene, dental students and the public.

The purpose of the JCNDE is to provide and conduct written examinations, exclusive of clinical demonstrations. The exams help state boards determine the qualifications of dentists who seek licensure to practice in any state, district or dependency of the United States that recognizes the National Board Examinations.

Although written examinations may be developed at the local level, most licensing boards use the NBDE (Parts I & II) as a major portion of their written examination requirement. Currently, all 53 United States licensing jurisdictions recognize National Board results. These jurisdictions include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Committee on International Programs and Development

The Committee on International Programs and Development (CIPD) advises the ADA Board of Trustees and ADA agencies regarding the ADA's international activities, the alignment of these activities with the Association's strategic plan, and the positioning of the ADA as an active partner in the global oral health arena, with the ultimate goal of contributing to improvements in global oral health. The CIPD also oversees the activities of the ADA International Development Subcommittee and the development of the international business development plan.



Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations

The primary purpose of the Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations (CAPIR) is to broaden the scope of oral health care within the total health care system. It also promotes preventive dentistry as a cornerstone of oral healthcare, leads and coordinates access to dental care activities for specific population groups and recommends policies and formulates programs on issues pertaining to the relationship of dentistry to medicine. State and local dental societies work with CAPIR to assess oral health needs, identify gaps and build community oral health infrastructure, among other efforts.

One of the Council's major goals is to support preventive health interventions, such as community water fluoridation. CAPIR also supports the American Indian/Alaska Native Dental Placement Program and is responsible for the successful expansion of Give Kids A Smile Day into a year-round effort to ensure access to care.

Council on ADA Sessions

The Council on ADA Sessions (CAS) holds the primary responsibility to create and continuously improve every aspect of the ADA Annual Session. In addition, the general chair of the local arrangements committee for the current year and the general chair-elect for the succeeding year serve as ex officio members. The ADA/ DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Program, held at the ADA Annual Session each year, is also among the Council's work. For more information about this program, visit <http://www.scadaresearch.org/> (click Faculty Advisor/Student) or contact the ADA at 312.440.2664.

Council on Communications

The Council on Communications is dedicated to advising the ADA on the image and brand implications of Association plans, programs, services and activities to preserve and enhance the trusted image of the ADA and the profession.

Tip: Members can download the unofficial actions of each council and committee meeting on ADA.org.

Council on Dental Benefit Programs

The Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP) is the ADA agency dedicated to promoting quality dental care through the development, promotion and monitoring of dental benefit programs for the public, as well as by development and maintenance of coding taxonomies and quality assessment and improvement tools and methodologies.

The Council fulfills its mission by formulating, analyzing and recommending policies on dental benefit programs and quality assessment issues, peer review, and coding taxonomies to the ADA's policy making bodies; advocating for appropriate administration as well as for the financing of dental benefit programs and quality assessment mechanisms; developing, evaluating and disseminating information on coding taxonomies for the public and the dental profession; and advocating for effective professional review processes for use among dentists, patients and payers.

Council on Dental Practice

The Council on Dental Practice (CDP) recommends policies and develops resources that enhance the personal and professional lives of our members, the dental team and the patients they serve. Many of these resources address a wide range of small business topics including, starting, designing, staffing, managing, growing, selling and closing a dental practice. The Council also develops resources related to dentist health and wellness, ergonomics and "Going Green" in the dental office. The CDP represents the practicing dentist's perspective on economic issues and is also responsible for helping dentists to prepare and recover from emergency situations and natural disasters. The CDP maintains liaison relationships with several associations that represent the allied dental team professions, including those representing dental hygienists, assistants and the laboratory industry. These collaborative efforts help dentists better serve their patients and the public.



Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs

The Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA) is the ADA agency dedicated to enhancing the ethical conscience of dentists by promoting the highest moral, ethical and professional standards in the provision of dental care to the public. CEBJA publishes the *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct (ADA Code)* to allow members to become cognizant of the ADA's code of ethics. CEBJA is also responsible for issuing advisory opinions on the *ADA Code* at the request of constituent dental societies promotes dental ethics through a monthly feature in *The Journal of the American Dental Association*. In addition, the Council is the authority on the *ADA Constitution and Bylaws* and serves as the appellate body in the tripartite member disciplinary system.

Council on Government Affairs

The Council on Government Affairs (CGA) recommends policies related to legislative and regulatory issues, including the formulation of proposed federal legislation. The Council also disseminates information to assist constituent and component societies on state legislative and regulatory matters. The CGA is the Association's liaison with agencies of the federal government, especially those agencies that employ dental personnel.

Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs

The Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs (CMIRP) is the agency responsible for overseeing the ADA- member group insurance plans that include Term Life, Universal Life, Disability Income Protection, Office Overhead Expense and MedCASH. These programs are underwritten and administered by the Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company. The Council also oversees the ADA-endorsed Member's Retirement Program and Individual Retirement Account Program that are administered by the AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company. The Council provides risk management resources to members on a number of insurance and financial related topics; and also serves as the Association's principal contact with the dental professional liability insurance industry.

Council on Membership

The Council on Membership (CM) formulates and recommends policies related to member recruitment and retention and other related issues. The Council works closely with constituent and component dental societies to support, monitor and encourage tripartite membership activities and to enhance cooperation and communication on tripartite recruitment and retention efforts. In addition, the Council on Membership recommends, monitors and supports the development of membership benefits and services that respond to identified needs of members.

Council on Scientific Affairs

The ADA's Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA) serves the profession and the public as the primary resource on the science of dentistry. The CSA provides recommendations to the ADA's policy-making bodies on scientific issues. The Council also promotes and conducts studies on scientific matters and oversees the ADA member publication, the *ADA Professional Product Review* as well as the Seal of Acceptance Program. CSA also provides scientific oversight for ADA activities in dental standards, both for the United States (ANSI / ADA Standards) and internationally (ISO Standards).

The ADA Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD), which is also overseen by the Council on Scientific Affairs, has launched a new EBD Web site that has concise, user-friendly information. The Web site includes a comprehensive database of systematic reviews on oral health topics and critical summaries of systematic reviews. Dentists, students and new graduates are encouraged to visit the EBD Center's resources at <http://ebd.ada.org>.



Other National Associations

The American Dental Association is the broad-based professional association for dentists and represents the many diverse occupations and perspectives of the profession. The ADA works closely with ASDA, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE). Ethnic dental associations such as the National Dental Association (NDA), the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA), Society for American Indian Dentists (SAID) and others, as well as the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) also play a key role in organized dentistry. Additionally, the Academy of General Dentistry along with many specialty organizations works on behalf of dentists and the profession.

Visit www.ada.org/goto/organizations (click on National Organizations Directory) to search for a particular association.

Tip: When you visit to www.ada.org/goto/organizations, simply leave the field blank and hit search to view all organizations.

Just for Students

The ADA Office of Student Affairs (OSA) is here for you during school and as you transition to dental practice.

Keep your finances on track

The publication *Financial Planning Issues for Dental Students*. The Infopak, Managing Finances, along with the Success Dental Student Programs also help students manage their money.

Get in-depth knowledge on issues that matter

ADA InfoPaks. Titles include *Associateships*, *Managing Finances*, *Practice Management*, and *Careers in Dentistry*, to name a few.

Understand boards and licensure

The publication *Dental Boards and Licensure Information for the New Graduate*. And licensure candidates can communicate exam information to patients by using the companion piece *A Patient's Guide to the Clinical Licensure Exam*.

Safeguard your future with insurance from Great-West Life.

The ADA offers every student member a free \$50,000 term life insurance policy until dental school graduation—all they have to do is sign up! (The thousands of members who participate in the ADA Term Life Plan cover the cost of student premiums.) Discounted disability insurance is also available to dental students, which can be easily converted to disability income protection after graduation. Go to www.insurance.ada.org or call 888.463.4545 for more information.

Access these complimentary resources and more at www.ada.org/goto/student and www.ada.org/goto/infopaks.

Want more information? Contact us!

Office of Student Affairs
800.621.8099 x7470
studentaffairs@ada.org

Resources Available at Your School or in Your Neighborhood!

! SUCCESS

Dental Student Programs

The ADA offers programs for dental students on-site at the dental school! The ADA's goal is to provide enrichment to the dental education experience with programs that address student needs and interests during each year of dental school. Programs include:

- *Success: Smart Start for Freshmen*
- *Success: Professional Preview for Sophomores*
- *Success: Career Strategies for Juniors*
- *Success: Practice Management for Seniors*

Every program is available to every school every year. For more information call, 800.621.8099 ext. 2808 or send an email to success@ada.org.

Tip: Want to know if Success is at your school? The schedule is posted to www.ada.org/goto/success.

Programs at the State and Local Level

Many state and local dental societies offer valuable programs for dental students including: mentor programs, tours of local dental offices, guides to establishing a practice in that state, malpractice insurance for board exams, free registration to the annual meeting and more! Contact your state society for the student programs at your school.



ASDA to ADA: A Progressive Relationship

The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) is the largest, independent national student-run organization for students pursuing a career in dentistry. As ASDA's mission is closely aligned with the goals of the ADA, the associations work together to provide students with the resources and support they need. Students get the best of both worlds! You can lead, learn and advocate locally and nationally with your student organization, ASDA and have access to the resources and support from the umbrella dental organization, the ADA.

Working Together

ASDA and the ADA work together on issues important to dental students, including licensure, ethics, and financial planning, and they advocate for these issues in Washington. One of the most valuable collaborations between the ADA and ASDA is the consultant program: ASDA appoints student leaders to participate on all ADA Councils and committees along with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), Joint Commission on National Dental Exams (JCNDE) and the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC). The ADA gains invaluable insight from a student's perspective and the students learn first-hand how ADA members work on behalf of the profession and the public. ASDA offers students the opportunity to work in their headquarters, as well as the ADA Chicago and Washington offices through their externship program.

Find student benefits and resources at:

www.ADA.org/goto/student

www.ASDAnet.org

Stay in Touch!

Moving? Not getting ADA resources? Be sure to update your contact information regularly, including your e-mail (we never sell your e-mail address, but do distribute resources via e-mail).

Feel free to e-mail or call us to update your information.

ADA Office of Student Affairs

312.440.7470

studentaffairs@ada.org

This program of the American Dental Association is offered as information only and not as, practice, financial, accounting, legal or other professional advice. Persons attending the seminar or reviewing these materials need to consult with their own professional advisors for such advice. The ADA does not, through its volunteer(s) or staff member(s) participating in this program, encourage any particular business decision or action on the issues that may be discussed, particularly with respect to whether and how to participate in managed care plans, DMSO's or other practice arrangements.



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