

## Reminder: Waste Discharge to Septic Systems Prohibited

As a reminder, discharging dental wastewater to onsite systems, such as septic tanks, is prohibited, according to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Wastewater from dental procedures is not considered sanitary wastewater pursuant to Part 22 of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Rules. On-site systems are not considered to be an acceptable method of disposal for medical waste pursuant to Part 138 of the Public Health Code.

Onsite systems include septic tank/leach fields, filtration systems, and mound systems. Wastewater discharged from an amalgam separator is not considered sanitary sewage

and therefore is unacceptable for discharge to an onsite wastewater system (Part 138 in the Public Health Code). This means that even if a dental facility currently has an amalgam separator and discharges into a septic system, there is still medical and hazardous waste passing through these separators, as they only target suspended solids.

Dental offices using these systems should be aware that wastewater discharge is prohibited and could subject these offices to expensive remediation costs to remove mercury from soil.

An isolated holding tank or amalgam containment system can be used to avoid unauthorized discharge of

wastewater into the environment. The MDA is aware of one company, Anterior Quest, based in Jenison, Mich., that provides these services, collecting all chairside dental waste and recycling it into mercury-free clean water. According to Anterior Quest, the system's costs are in line with other amalgam separator options and exempt any dental facility from Michigan and EPA federal regulations.

The MDA does not endorse or have any commercial relationship with Anterior Quest.

For more information on amalgam separator regulations, contact the MDA's Josh Kluzak at 800-589-2632, ext. 422, or [jkluzak@michigandental.org](mailto:jkluzak@michigandental.org).

### NEWS FROM THE ADA

#### ADA to Hold Hands-on Evidence-Based Dentistry Workshop

Registration is open for an ADA evidence-based dentistry workshop, "Dentistry for the Modern Age," taking place May 16-19, 2018, at ADA headquarters in Chicago.

The workshop will offer an engaging, interactive opportunity for both educators and practicing dentists to hone their skills and earn 21 CE credits.

The course is offered in two streams. For dentists, the workshop is a chance to learn the latest evidence and apply it to practice. For educators, the workshop will provide instruction on how to teach others about the implementation of evidence into patient care.

Tuition is \$1,200 for ADA members (\$1,500 for non-members) and includes course materials, lunch, and a group dinner. For more information, visit [ada.org/modern](http://ada.org/modern), or contact the ADA's Jeff Huber at 312-440-2501 or at [huberj@ada.org](mailto:huberj@ada.org).

## Program to Highlight RDA Pathways

Program instructors from Mott Community College and Washtenaw Community College will present an informational program on how to become a Registered Dental Assistant on Saturday, March 24 at Mott Community College in Flint.

The program is aimed at current Certified Dental Assistants or on-the-job-trained dental assistants who want to take their dental career to the next level. Employer dentists are also encouraged to attend.

The program will provide information on different academic options and includes a review of the administrative rules governing dental assistants to help attendees understand how RDA skills can better enhance patient care and office productivity.

There is no cost to attend, and refreshments will be available. One CE credit will be issued. For more information or to register, contact Lori Barnhart at 810-515-6317 or at [slsbarn@lental.com](mailto:slsbarn@lental.com).



**Birthday bash** — Several MDA leaders joined state Rep. Jim Ellison (D-Royal Oak) for a birthday celebration Tuesday, Jan. 30 at Fifth Avenue in Royal Oak. From left: Rep. Ellison, MDA President Dr. Michele Tulak-Gorecki, Dr. Chris Gorecki, Dr. Naila Farooq, and Dr. Ghabi Kaspo. (Photo: Lynn Aronoff.)