



WISCONSIN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS: *Please contact Christine Dunbeck to schedule interviews with WDA dentist spokespersons on this important health topic.*

Wisconsin Dental Association applauds national policy on opioid use in oral care

WEST ALLIS, WIS., March 26, 2018 —Taking the lead among national health care associations, the American Dental Association today announced support for a series of nationwide policy changes that will both increase provider awareness of the dangers of overprescribing opioids and protect the American public.

The Wisconsin Dental Association endorses these efforts and is proud to continue its work as a leader at the state level in this endeavor.

The measures, most of which coincide with action that Wisconsin has taken on its own, are as follows:

- Supporting mandatory continuing education for dentists regarding the responsible prescribing of opioids
- Supporting dentists utilizing the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
- Supporting limits on opioid prescription for a maximum duration of seven days

“As in so many other areas, Wisconsin is at the forefront of the fight against opioid abuse and addiction,” said WDA President [Dr. Dave Clemens \(Wisconsin Dells\)](#). “Our profession recognizes the threat that abuse and addiction pose to our society, and we have a responsibility to do our part to prevent any more families from being affected.”

Wisconsin dentists are already required to complete two hours on responsible opioid prescribing as part of their 30 hours of mandatory biennial continuing education. All Wisconsin prescribers, including dentists, are also mandatory participants in Wisconsin's Enhanced PDMP.

“Wisconsin is proud to lead the way when it comes to our nationally recognized Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which was created with feedback from Wisconsin’s prescribers,” said Department of Safety and Professional Services Secretary Laura Gutiérrez. “[The latest report](#) shows the efforts taken by Wisconsin prescribers, including dentists, are moving the dial against the opioid epidemic with a 20 percent reduction in opioid prescriptions from 2015 to 2017.”

“The WDA was one of the first medical organizations in Wisconsin to partner with the Department of Justice and commit to ending opioid abuse in the state,” said Attorney General Brad Schimel. “I have

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enjoyed WDA's partnership on our [Dose of Reality](#) campaign to end prescription painkiller abuse and have appreciated the opportunity, every year, to present to third-year Marquette University School of Dentistry students about the dangers of opioid misuse."

The Wisconsin Dental Association has 3,000 member dentists and a number of dental hygienists. With just 3,500 licensed dentists in the state, the WDA is the leading voice for dentistry in Wisconsin. WDA members are committed to promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care. Established in 1870, the WDA is headquartered in West Allis and has a legislative office in Madison. The WDA is affiliated with the American Dental Association - the largest and oldest national dental association in the world. For more information, call 414-276-4520, visit WDA.org and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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