

Emergency Response Providers: Dental

Proposed Definition

Dental responders:

A licensed Nevada dentist or dental hygienist in good standing with the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners is deemed to be acting within the bounds of his or her license when providing emergency medical care, immunizations, mobile, and humanitarian care that is consistent with his/her training during a declared local, state, or national emergency.

Dental professionals who provide emergency care voluntarily and without compensation during declared disasters are provided indemnity.

Expansion of Scope of Practice and Inclusion into Battle Born Medical Corps

The scope of practice for Nevada dental professional has been proposed to be expanded as follows to assist in the COVID-19 pandemic:

Licensed Dental Hygienist:

1. Basic triage care (monitoring blood pressure, heart rate, respiration rate, pupil dilation, etc)

Licensed Dentist:

1. Triage
2. Immunization/vaccination
3. Clinical care and infrastructure for “walking well” care
4. COVID-19 testing
5. Treating emergencies, including providing local anesthesia and suturing
6. Airway maintenance (oral, nasal, pharyngeal and intubation)
7. Drug dispensation (such as antibiotics and non-opioid analgesics)
8. Syndrome surveillance (monitoring patient populations for irregular signs of illness)

Impact

Nevada dentists and dental hygienists have routinely demonstrated records of professional volunteerism and contribution at all levels of the community, state, and federal arenas.

By including dental professionals in the Battle Born Medical Corps and permitting the profession to serve within public health departments, hospitals, and medical facilities, dental responders will be poised to alleviate the burden on and collaborate with interprofessional emergency response teams during this public health crisis.

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