Policy Change in Access to Care

• Scope of practice change for dental hygienists
Policy Changes

• HB 2058 – changed the supervision scope of practice for dental hygienists.
  – A DENTAL HYGIENIST MAY PRACTICE UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF A Licensed PHYSICIAN IN AN INPATIENT HOSPITAL SETTING.
  – WHETHER OR NOT THE PHYSICIAN IS PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT THE HOSPITAL.
  – SUPERVISE DENTAL ASSISTANTS, INCLUDING DENTAL ASSISTANTS WHO ARE CERTIFIED.

History behind the Bill

Volunteer project with a charitable organization.
CDC: Hospital-acquired infections
Top ten public health concerns in 2016

Photo from: https://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/30/trapped-in-the-hospital-bed-2/

Ventilator Associated Pneumonia

- Most common nosocomial infection in ICU
  - Longer intubation results in higher risk
- Cause is aspiration of oral bacteria
- VAP increases length of hospital stays
- CDC evidence-based guidelines for reducing VAP.

CDC Guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00045365.htm
Building Partnerships

• Physicians
• Dentists
• Nurses
• Hospitals

Recent Developments

• Three ICU Critical Care Dental Hygienist job positions at a regional hospital opened in February, 2019.
• Will allow the hospital to seek reimbursement for services through medical billing due to the physician supervision change.
Challenges

- Arizona Medicaid
- Medicare

Opportunities & Next Steps

- Educational component
- Long Term Care
THANK YOU

Julia Wacloff | Chief, Office of Oral Health
Julia.wacloff@azdhs.gov | 602-542-1866
azhealth.gov
@azdhs
facebook.com/azdhs