



## Beyond the Tonsils: Dentists and Dental Hygienists as Non-Physician Primary Care Providers

- What primary care services, traditionally provided by physicians and nurses, can you perform?
- Can dental professionals really perform point-of-care testing using blood?
- Medical-dental integration is a great idea, but where do you start and what are the challenges?

In this new era of medical-dental integration, the expectation is that dental professionals will become more involved in risk assessment, early diagnosis, and co-management of various medical conditions. Indeed, dental professionals are uniquely positioned to provide many primary care services that have traditionally been delivered by physicians and nurses. This leads the way for a new model of care, the *'Non-Physician Primary Care Provider'*,\* ushering in an alternative approach to meeting the needs of millions of people who live with multi-factorial chronic diseases.

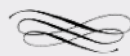
This course explores medical screening in the dental setting, including the use of questionnaires, visual examination, point-of-care technologies, manual measurements and salivary diagnostics to screen patients for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, poor glycemic control, HPV, HIV, hypertension, dermatological lesions, various cancers, and biometric health, among other things. The challenges to implementing these primary care services into the dental setting will also be discussed.

**Suggested Audience:** Dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, front desk staff

**Suggested Length:** 2-3 hours



\*The American Academy of Family Practitioners (AAFP) defines Non-Physician Primary Care Providers as "providers of health care other than physicians who render some primary care services." AAFP website. Available at: <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/primary-care.html>; accessed May 1, 2018.



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Discuss drivers of the Non-Physician Primary Care Provider model of care in dentistry
- Implement screening tools such as questionnaires, point-of-care technologies, salivary diagnostics, and smart phone applications, among other methods
- Introduce bi-lateral point-of-care screening and referral to the medical and nursing communities
- Overcome the challenges in implementing primary care services in dentistry
- Identify attitudes about implementing this new practice paradigm and areas where more education and training is necessary to be successful in providing primary care services in the dental setting



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