June 25, 2021

Office protocol regarding the Periodontal patient at Spencer Dentistry

# **I. Introduction**

## A. Description and Background Information:

* Comparing the ‘old’ and ‘new’guidelines to diagnosing Periodontal Disease.
* Current recommendations and guidelines from the AAP, the RCDSO and the CDHO regarding proper diagnosis and referral process for patients with periodontal disease

## B. Identify the Current Problem:

* Spencer Dentistry currently lacks an explicit standardized step by step approach to assessing patients need for periodontal referral.
* There is inconsistency in the diagnosis of periodontal disease using the new AAP periodontal classifications, creating a conflicting referral process.
* There is no existing documentation protocol established for when a patient refuses a specialist referral after their condition has been thoroughly explained to them.

## C. Identify the purpose of the report and the intended audience:

*Primary Audience*: Dr Gurbaz Sandhu, Dentist/Owner of Spencer Dentistry.

*Secondary Audience*: Dentists and Dental Hygienists employed by Spencer Dentistry.

*Relationship with Audience*: Employee, Colleague

*Purpose:*

* To inform Dr Gurbaz Sandhu and his staff about the importance of reviewing the new AAP Periodontal classifications to calibrate diagnosis.
* Develop a detailed step-by-step protocol based on the AAP classifications for the dentists and dental hygienists to follow.
* Implement a ‘Refusal of Referral’ form to be signed by all patients refusing specialist intervention after their condition has been thoroughly explained to them.

## D. Method of Inquiry:

*Primary Sources:*  Email survey questions to 20 hygienists practicing in Ontario to determine scope of inquiry.

*Secondary Sources:* Literature review regarding recommendations for periodontal diagnosis and referral as published by: AAP, CDHO, RCDSO, CDHA, ODA

E. Scope of the Inquiry:

1. What are the guidelines utilized by other dental offices in identifying which patients require a referral to a periodontist?
2. Have staff members taken a course on the new AAP Periodontal classifications?
3. What are the documentation practices regarding the referral process being used, and furthermore, what is the protocol utilized when a patient refuses a referral?

## F. Limitations of the Study:

* Possible selection bias as I know the hygienists being surveyed personally.
* Possible response bias as I know the respondents personally, which may affect the way they answer.

# **II. Collected Data/Body**

1. Explain the findings, presenting a clear picture of the evidence, interpretations, and reasoning on for the conclusion to …
2. Educate the staff on the new AAP Periodontal classifications
3. Develop a detailed step-by-step protocol based on the AAP for the dentists and dental hygienists to follow.

# **III. CONCLUSION**

1. Summary of findings
2. Overall Interpretation of Findings
3. Recommendations for Spencer Dentistry