

# “Breaking Bad and Breaking Through”: Managing and Treating Patients with “Meth Mouth”



**The COVID pandemic has drawn much of the country's focus for the past few years. Yet, there is a pandemic within a pandemic that begs our attention.**

Social isolation, job loss, anxiety, and fear has sparked a surge in methamphetamine abuse and relapses in the United States. As a dental professional, are you prepared to treat patients returning to your practice and addicted to methamphetamine? Most dental professionals receive little to no training in recognizing patients with substance-use disorders, understanding the oral-systemic link of addiction, and in developing treatment plans that address drug-related hyposalivation, bruxism, and advanced caries.

In this workshop, discover what methamphetamine is and why it is the second most widely abused illegal drug in the world and the second leading cause of drug overdose deaths in the United States. You will learn how to recognize the physical, behavioral, and oral clues of methamphetamine abuse during a routine dental examination. You will learn how to discuss substance use with your patients using motivational interviewing and will practice these newly acquired communication skills in small and large group discussions. You will be presented with a patient case and learn how to develop a realistic treatment plan using a caries-risk by drug use assessment approach. Evidence-based guidelines for managing pain will be discussed. Finally, you will learn dentistry's role in addressing our nation's epidemic of addiction and leave the workshop prepared to recognize, communicate, treat, and refer patients addicted to methamphetamine.

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BRIDGING CONNECTIONS • BUILDING UNDERSTANDING

## Participants will learn:

- How to recognize the clues of methamphetamine abuse
- How to communicate with patients about suspected abuse effectively and confidently without fear, judgment or accusation
- How to develop office policies to keep both your patient and practice safe
- How to use a health history form as a screening tool for substance use disorders
- How to use the Meth Mouth Treatment Plan Assessment Form
- How to treat meth-related xerostomia, bruxism, and caries
- How to replace personal beliefs and misconceptions about addiction with the evidence and science of addiction
- Evidence-based practices for managing dental pain
- Where to refer patients for recovery and sobriety support

### SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:

Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants,  
Front/Back Office Team Members

### SUGGESTED FORMAT:

Full 1-Day or 2-Day Pre-Conference Workshop or Webinar

