

FILLING YOU IN

A DENTAL NEWSBRIEF

Spring 2008

David D. Crane, DDS, S.C. 405 W. Prairie View Road Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 715-723-7175

Updating Technology and Adding Staff

Dear Friends,

Some patients have asked about the future of our practice (maybe because of my graying hair). As you can see by this newsletter, we continue to expand our technology, services, and treatment rooms. Our office has been redecorated. New staff has been added. Each individual in the office is continuously being trained to the most current standards. Probably in five to seven years, I will bring in a younger dentist associate to continue the standard of care you have come to expect. We will continue to "practice with excellence" and use the "integrated" approach to patient care. This means that you, our patient, will always have the best procedures performed, in your best interest, whether by myself or by one of our area specialists.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Crane



Privacy Matters!!

Protecting your privacy and patient records is very important to us. All papers with patient names and information are shredded when no longer needed. Passwords are needed to use any computer in our office and additional passwords are needed to use the dental programs. Our building has a security system that is continuously monitored by a security company. All records are backed up twice daily and a backup is taken off-site, securely, every evening. Our electronic records are fully compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), ensuring confidential patient information remains safe and secure.

Julie Theisen Joins our Practice

Julie Theisen has joined our team at Crane Family Dental as our full-time dental hygienist replacing our friend Beth Mayer who has moved on to new career opportunities. After growing up near Sand Creek and graduating from high school in Colfax, she started her dental career in 1987 as a dental assistant. Her love of dentistry then led her to obtain a degree in dental hygiene from MATC in Madison in 1990. Julie has worked in dental offices in Menomonie,



Cornell, and Eau Claire. She has taken numerous post graduate classes and has completed many speciality courses. These include periodontal disease control, implant maintenance, electronic records, special home care, infection control, oral cancer and pathology screening, and patient education.

Julie now lives in Eau Claire with her husband, four children, and dog, Jack. Her family keeps busy with family activities from basketball to soccer to football. They are active in school, church, and love to spend time at her parents' lake home fishing, swimming and playing bean bags. Julie enjoys running, cooking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Dear Patients of Dr. Crane,

I am so excited to be a part of this team! I have lived in this area most of my life and have always heard many positive things about Dr. Crane's practice. He has dedicated and professional staff, modern quality equipment, cares about the patient's well being, and strives for excellence in dentistry. I am passionate about my profession and look forward to meeting all of you! Have any questions? Email me at: staff@cranefamilydental.com

Julie Theisen

Electronic Dental Records

An electronic dental record (EDR) is a computer system and software program that stores and replicates all of the information in your dental record. This includes clinic notes, treatment and periodontal charts, procedures, examination forms, medical history, digitized x-rays, and any other images.

For years we have used state-of-the-art computers and software systems for scheduling, billing and filing insurance claims. We will soon be adding digital x-rays and electronic charting to our program. Throughout the coming months our staff will be training for all of our digital upgrades.

Digital X-rays

Our practice is taking a technological leap by transitioning from conventional film radiography to digital radiography. Instead of using the film to X-ray your teeth, we will have patients gently bite down on digital sensors which return instantaneous images for aid in diagnosis.

One of the primary advantages will be time-saving. We will snap the picture and provide an image instantly on a computer screen. This allows the doctor and/or hygienist to continue service with little delay. The digital images can be manipulated for clarity to increase diagnostic value and patient education. We can zoom in on and magnify an area of the tooth or bone, adjust image contrasts and even invert the image colors for diagnostic purposes. Digital radiography uses up to 256 shades of gray compared to the 16 to 25 shades seen on conventional film. This allows for contrast and density enhancement, which aids in the detection of disease.

Patients become partners in treatment recommendations and plans when they share access to their own dental images enlarged on a computer screen (rather than squinting at a postage-stamp-size shot held up to a light). Digital images can quickly and easily be electronically transmitted to insurance companies, specialists, emergency dentists, or consultants.

With traditional films, our patients were exposed to very low levels of radiation exposure (we achieved this using high-speed, low-radiation film). With digital sensors, you receive 70 to 80 percent less. Digital radiography also eliminates the need for our staff to handle harmful processing chemicals and byproducts.

Electronic Charting

Dental and periodontal charting provide a graphic description of the conditions in a patient's mouth, including caries (i.e., decay), restorations, missing or malposed teeth, clinical attachment levels, furcation (root) involvement, mobility, pocket depths, bleeding sites, and other deviations from normal. Other conditions that may be charted include erosion, abrasion, developmental anomalies and use of prostheses.

Record keeping is standardized with digital charting. Patients will be able to look at several different graphic views of all the conditions in their mouth on a computer. Treatment planning and communication will be enhanced.

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405 W. Prairie View Road
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-3382

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Humanitarian and Educational Programs

We hear many comments from patients who have read about the humanitarian projects Dr. Crane and his wife have facilitated in Latin America. Their organization, Dental Seminars & Symposia, LLC, has also been conducting continuing education programs for dentists on a world-wide and national basis. Today their annual program in Hawaii is one of the premier dental programs in that state. Eight different professors and faculty are contracted to speak on different clinical aspects of dentistry each February. These courses emphasize a review of the basics (anatomy, pathology, pharmacology, restorative, cosmetics, etc.) and presentation of the most current techniques and technology. Through these meetings and others Dr. Crane receives over 50 hours of continuing education every year.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7:30-12:00 a.m.
1:00-5:00 p.m.

Friday
7:30-12:00 a.m.

Phone: (715) 723-7175

E-mail
staff@cranefamilydental.com

Website
cranefamilydental.com