

IMPLANT TRIBUNE

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Does your implant training meet the proposed guidelines?

Recommendations catch up to legal standard-of-care expectations

By Ken Hebel, BSc, DDS, MS,
Certified Prosthodontist, and Reena Gajjar,
DDS, Certified Prosthodontist

Until recently, implant dentistry was considered to be a therapy that was primarily provided by dental specialists, and as such, training regulations were not an issue because most specialties incorporate implant therapy into their residency programs. With implant dentistry becoming more mainstream and being incorporated into general practices, educators and licensing bodies are starting to set training guidelines and parameters for practice.

Background

Several years ago, the Institute for Dental Implant Awareness (IDIA) released a document, "Recommended C.E. Training Protocols to Meet the Legal Standard of Care for Implant Placement." Although not legally enforceable, this document provided some guidelines for continuing education programs to meet the standard of care for implant therapy. These guidelines were based on existing guidelines in the United Kingdom and reviewed by many dentists, both general dentists and specialists.

The release of such a document indicates the awareness by the profession for guidelines to be established, both for the protection of patients and the profession.

Many undergraduate dental schools do not offer a full curriculum in implant dentistry. As such, many dentists are required to obtain their implant education through post-graduate continuing education programs.

With the proliferation of implant courses, it is critical to be aware of the training that is considered adequate by the profession in order to embark on implant therapy in your practice. It has been established that short-duration programs (one to three days in length) cannot fulfill the minimum standard that the profession considers appropriate for training in implant dentistry.



Regardless of what phase of implant therapy you choose to provide to your patients, you should be trained in all phases. Fred Michmershuizen/Dental Tribune File Photo

Standard of care

Did you know that although a licensed dentist can perform any dental procedure, if a general dentist chooses to perform treatments that are not routinely performed by general dentists, the law holds all practitioners to the same standard of care that would be provided by specialists providing similar treatments?

As such, it is imperative that dentists who are not formally trained in implant therapy pursue educational programs that meet and exceed the minimum guidelines that are proposed by not only the profession but by their licensing body.

Recently, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (Canada), the licensing body for dentists in Ontario, released a draft document proposing minimum standards of educational requirements for any dentist performing implant therapy. Although this document applies only to dentists in Ontario, it is suggestive of

the direction of the profession in establishing standards and indicative of what current practitioners of implant therapy consider the minimum educational requirements.

In addition, although these requirements are not legal requirements, when a licensing body takes these steps to provide recommendations regarding training, it can be assumed that should an issue arise for a dentist providing implant therapy, the college and other involved parties will defer to these recommendations regarding the type and scope of training that dentist received.

Cross-training

One interesting aspect of these proposed guidelines is that regardless of what phase of implant therapy you choose to provide to your patients, you should be trained in all phases. Dentists providing only the surgical phase need to be trained in implant prosthetics, and those providing prosthetics need to be trained in surgical considerations. This cross-training is indicative of the complex, integrated nature of implant therapy and the suggestion that one is not competent in one aspect of implant therapy without understanding all aspects.

Another interesting aspect is the requirement for continued education and training. Implant dentistry is such a new and exciting area within dentistry that

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techniques and products are still changing and advancing. The need for frequent continuing education is more critical in this field than in other areas of dentistry.

So what does this all mean for you?

If you are considering incorporating implant dentistry into your practice, or if you already provide one or both phases of implant dentistry, we recommend you follow these steps:

- Review the RCDSO proposed guidelines and review the IDIA training protocols. Both these articles can be found on our website, www.handsontaining.com, under the “Downloads” tab.
- Research your licensing body and determine if it has set any minimum standards or guidelines.
- Make sure the training you are considering, or have already taken, fulfills those minimum standards (or refer to

the existing guidelines if your licensing body has not yet set any guidelines).

- Make sure the training institution that you choose provides not only a comprehensive training program but also provides tools and resources that allow you to review, refresh and continue to learn.

It is critical to emphasize that even with continued education, a general dentist should only practice in accordance with his or her training and experience. As such, patients who present with complex treatment situations — or a level of difficulty beyond the practitioner’s training and skill set — should be referred to a specialist.

In any profession, guidelines are set to not only protect the providers within that profession but to protect the interests of the public. Without proper guidelines, the standard of care is diminished, and in many situations, a low standard of care not only affects treatment outcomes but also establishes a damaging reputation for that particular therapy.

Guidelines within implant dentistry are long overdue, and the establishment of educational recommendations will serve to raise the standard of implant therapy provided and improve treatment outcomes to protect both the public and the profession.

About the authors

KEN HEBEL, BSC, DDS, MS, CERTIFIED PROSTHODONTIST, earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario in 1979 and then completed a surgical internship program. He completed the prosthodontic graduate program at the Eastman Dental Center in 1983, along with his master’s degree in anatomy.

As a specialist in prosthodontics with an extensive background in computer graphics and imaging, **REENA GAJJAR, DDS, CERTIFIED PROSTHODONTIST**, is a co-founder of the Hands On Training Institute. Gajjar earned her undergraduate dental degree at the University of Western Ontario in 1988.

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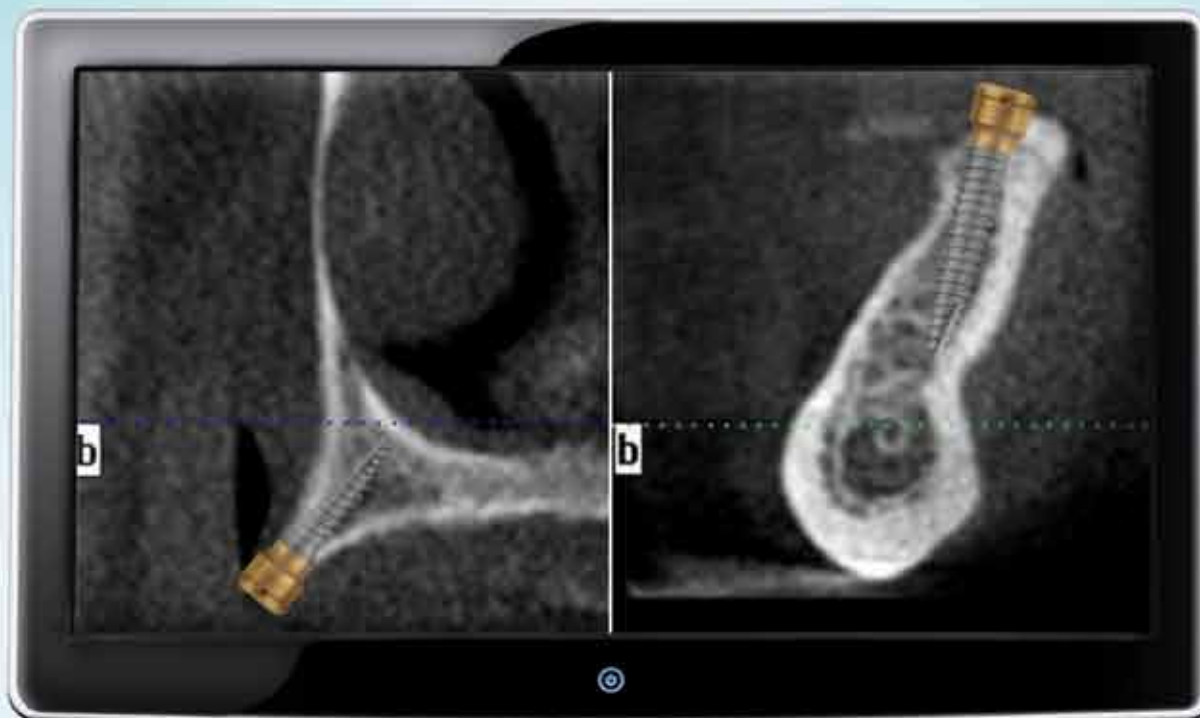
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Incorporating all of LOCATOR's proven features, including its patented pivoting technology, LODI has remarkable resiliency and exceptional durability, while allowing for replacement of the attachment should wear occur throughout time.

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or visit our new website at www.zestanchors.com/loidi/it

* The McGill Consensus Statement on Overdentures. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. May 24-25 2002.
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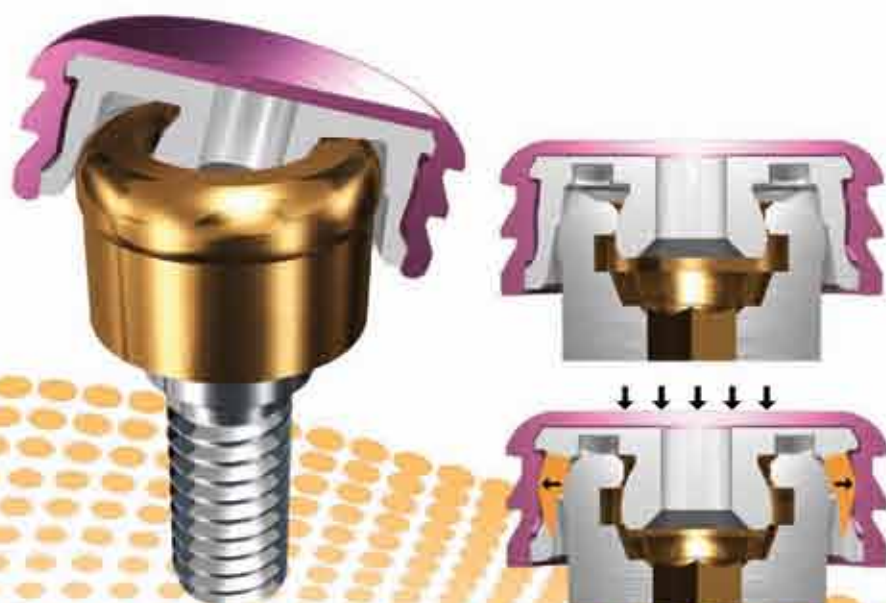
³Comparison based upon Straumann's CARES Custom Zirconia Abutment. Price varies depending upon the laboratory.

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Zirconia Abutments on Titanium Bases combine esthetics with strength & precision for restorations in the esthetic zone. The titanium base is gold anodized to maintain the natural tooth color of the zirconia while providing structural support. These stock abutments with contoured margins are provided in 0°, 8° & 15° with 1 & 2mm collar heights to minimize the need for preparation, thereby providing the benefits of custom abutments at less than half the price.

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Our price	\$85	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$40	\$112	\$100	\$120	\$100	\$120
Zimmer Dental®	\$160	\$215	\$170	\$180	\$210	\$239	\$254	\$67	\$178	\$166	N/A	\$202	\$294
Straumann®	N/A	\$190	\$195	\$195	\$255	\$339 ³	\$339 ³	\$65	\$275	\$195	N/A	\$180	N/A
Nobel Biocare™	\$145	\$186	\$170	\$225	\$216	\$285	\$285	\$72	\$217	\$149	N/A	\$229	\$274

Sterngold assumes the U.S. operations of Cendres+Métaux

Sterngold recently signed an agreement in which it assumed the U.S. operations of Cendres+Métaux. Sterngold has had a long-standing relationship with Cendres+Métaux offering selected products, and Sterngold is now pleased to offer Cendres+Métaux's complete line of alloys, attachments and consumables within the United States.

Cendres+Métaux manufactures bars and retentive elements for fixed and removable restorations. It also produces the innovative SFI-Bar®, the Dalbo® and the Dolder® bar systems, and it offers a wide

range of premium noble-metal alloys for casting and ceramic veneering.

This partnership unites two dedicated, experienced and well-respected companies in the dental industry, and both have been synonymous with quality and innovation, according to the company.

"We are very excited about this U.S. partnership with Cendres+Métaux," said Gordon Craig, vice president and general manager of Sterngold Dental. "Our organizations share the commitment to providing customers with high-quality products combined with excel-

lent customer service, and this union will strengthen those core initiatives."

Starting now, customers can contact Sterngold directly for ordering and product information needs. For more information, contact Sterngold's customer service department at (800) 243-9942.

About Sterngold Dental

Founded in 1897, Sterngold Dental, LLC, is a world leader in dental products and specializes in alloys, attachments, implants and restorative systems. Examples are the Stern ERA family of resilient den-

tal attachments and the Natural Profile Abutment System for esthetic restoration of implants. For more information, visit www.sterngold.com.

About Cendres+Métaux

Cendres+Métaux roots date back to 1885 when Louis Aufranc founded a small precious metal smelter in Biel/Bienne (Switzerland) for the purpose of processing precious metal melting stock. Today, the Cendres+Métaux Group operates on a global scale and has more than 450 employees. For more information, visit www.cmsa.ch.

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ZEST Anchors introduces a new narrow-diameter implant system featuring overdenture attachment

Until now, choosing a narrow-diameter implant could often mean a sacrifice in attachment performance and, ultimately, patient satisfaction.

ZEST Anchors responds to that need by introducing the LOCATOR® Overdenture Implant System (LODI), featuring a new narrow-diameter implant combined with the world-leading LOCATOR Attachment, providing clinicians with solutions to the attachment limitations often found with O-ball mini implants.

The ZEST Anchors LOCATOR Overdenture Implant System features critical elements that optimize patient satisfaction, the company says. The LOCATOR Attachment is seated after the implant is placed, making case planning, implant surgery and restoration easier. In addition, its unique two-piece design allows for attachment replacement should wear occur throughout time.

LODI is available in narrow diameters of 2.4 and 2.9 mm and is ideal for those patients with very narrow ridges who refuse the additional appointments and the cost often associated with grafting procedures. Made from the strongest titanium available, LODI features a proven RBM surface and is designed to provide

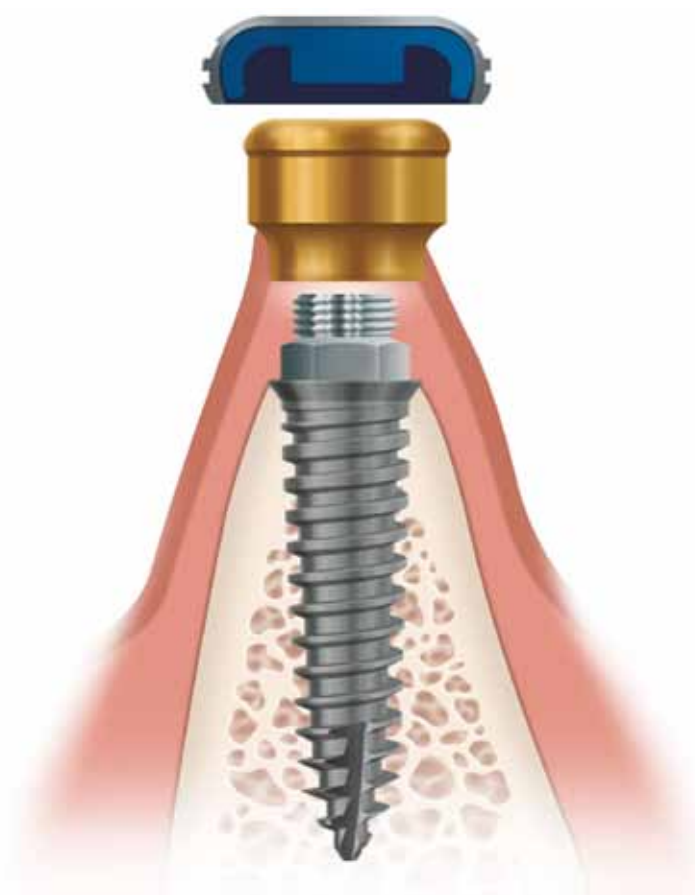
primary stability when immediate loading is indicated, the company says.

LODI is packaged with the LOCATOR Attachment so it incorporates all of LOCATOR's sought-after features including its patented pivoting technology and customizable levels of retention, all while maintaining a dramatically reduced vertical height as compared to O-ball mini implant designs.

"The LOCATOR Overdenture Implant System is the result of a collection of inputs from market demands and clinicians expressing their needs," said Steve Schiess, CEO of ZEST Anchors. "To the many clinicians who asked us why a trusted leader in overdenture attachments that has a proven, 40-year track record of continuous innovation doesn't make a narrow diameter implant for overdentures, I can finally say here is LODI."

For more information about the Locator Overdenture Implant System from ZEST Anchors, call (855) 868-LODI (5634) or visit the new website at www.zestanchors.com.

Photo/Provided by ZEST Anchors



DENTSPLY Implants and 3Shape jointly release new lab-based scanning solution

3Shape, a technology leader in 3-D scanning and CAD/CAM software for dental applications, and DENTSPLY Implants, a market leader in the field of implant dentistry and CAD/CAM abutments, have announced the joint release of a new software interface solution linking 3Shape 3-D dental scanners and ATLANTIS™ VAD™ (Virtual Abutment Design) software.

With a single click, 3Shape scanner users in the many dental labs all over the world can now transfer digital scan information, containing the patient's oral geometry with implant positions, straightaway into DENTSPLY Implant's ATLANTIS design and manufacturing facilities. For labs working with ATLANTIS abutment design services, this direct new connectivity reduces costs, eliminates the shipping of physical models and reduces turnaround time.

The solution gives users additional choices when providing customized abutments for their customers. It is available as an option for all users with 3Shape's powerful Abutment Designer™ module — an add-on to 3Shape's user-acclaimed Dental System™.

For customers without the Abutment Designer module, 3Shape has recently announced the coming release of CAD Points — a new and flexible service that allows 3Shape users to access scanning

and designing modules, such as Abutment Designer, on a pay-per-case basis.

"3Shape is always seeking new ways to provide maximum flexibility and a wide range of options to dental labs who are using 3Shape scanners and software," said, 3Shape President and CEO Flemming Thorup. "We are very happy that this collaboration between DENTSPLY Implants and 3Shape makes it possible for many laboratories to benefit from the unique strengths of our respective products and companies."

Users who wish to benefit from this opportunity should contact their 3Shape reselling partner for explicit information about availability of the interface for their system.

About 3Shape A/S

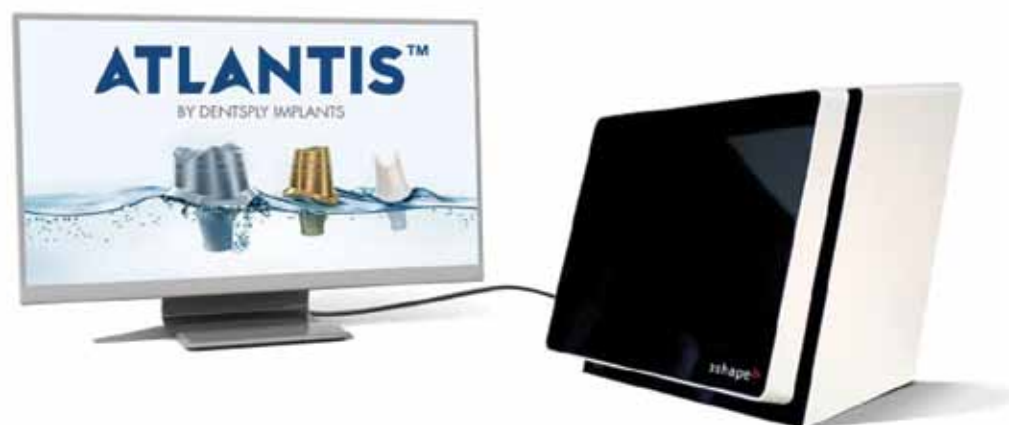
3Shape A/S is a Danish company specializing in the development and marketing of 3-D scanners and CAD/CAM software solutions designed for the creation, processing, analysis and management of high-quality 3-D data for application in complex manufacturing processes.

3Shape envisions the age of the "full digital dental lab," and its more than 130 developers provide innovation power toward reaching this goal. 3Shape's flexible solutions empower dental professionals through automation of real workflows, and its systems are applied in thousands of labs in more than 90 countries worldwide, putting 3Shape technologies at the peak of the market

in relation to units produced per day by dental technicians.

3Shape boosts its first-line distributor support network with a second-line support force of more than 30 in-house experts placed in five support and service centers strategically placed around the globe.

3Shape is a privately held company headquartered in Copenhagen, with the market's largest team dedicated to scanner and software development for the dental segment based in Denmark and Ukraine, production facilities in Poland and business development and support offices in New Jersey and Asia. For more information regarding 3Shape, visit www.3shapedental.com.



3Shape and DENTSPLY Implants have announced the joint release of a new software interface solution. Photo/Provided by 3Shape

Glidewell Laboratories announces the Open Platform Inclusive Tooth Replacement Solution

Glidewell Laboratories, an industry-leading provider of digital dental laboratory products and services, announced recently the expansion of the Inclusive® Tooth Replacement Solution to accommodate a number of popular implant systems including DENTSPLY Implants, BIOMET 3i, Nobel Biocare, Straumann and Zimmer.

"Clinicians who want to take advantage of this restorative-driven solution featuring custom tissue management but who prefer to place their existing implant system can now prescribe the Open Platform Inclusive Tooth Replacement Solution," said Glidewell Laboratories Chief Operations Officer Greg Minzenmayer.

The expanded solution includes all of the same components as the original Inclusive Tooth Replacement Solution with the exception of the surgical drills required for placing the implant of choice (supplied by the prescribing dentist).

Glidewell Laboratories will provide the prosthetic guide, custom temporary components, custom impression coping and final CAD/CAM restoration, all designed around the clinician's chosen implant platform.

Additionally, an Inclusive Tapered Im-



Glidewell Laboratories has expanded its Inclusive Tooth Replacement Solution to accommodate a variety of popular implant systems. Photo/Provided by Glidewell

plant (with corresponding final surgical drill) is included, as a replacement for the clinician's implant if needed.

Temporization sets the tone for the final esthetic outcome, with parameters unique to each patient. Only the Inclusive Tooth Replacement Solution promotes patient-specific temporization

and contoured healing through the use of custom temporary components rather than generic components, according to Glidewell.

Clinicians can provisionalize a case with the custom temporary abutment and accompanying BioTemps® provisional crown or place the custom healing abutment for a more conservative approach. Either option affords the opportunity to begin sculpting the soft-tissue architecture around the implant and developing the future emergence profile — in a fraction of the time that would be required to create custom healing components chairside.

When healing is complete, the gingival anatomy is maintained and captured during the impression procedure with the matching custom impression coping, enabling the laboratory technician to design the natural emergence profile required for a predictable, esthetic result. In the same amount of time it would take to place generic stock components, patient-specific temporization and soft-tissue management is provided with this feature of the Open Platform Inclusive Tooth Replacement Solution.

The Open Platform Tooth Replacement

Solution is specifically designed as a convenient, all-in-one treatment option that begins with the final restoration in mind, incorporating all of the clinical components and laboratory services required to ensure a successful outcome.

Backed by more than 40 years of experience and a strong commitment to excellence, Glidewell Laboratories has the product portfolio, infrastructure and competency to provide the full spectrum of affordable custom implant solutions to dentists, according to the company. Advanced CAD/CAM processing capabilities ensure precise, esthetic restorations that require fewer adjustments and remakes, reducing chairtime and leading to greater overall patient satisfaction.

Now, with Inclusive Scanning Abutments for clinical use, dentists who have made an investment in digital dentistry can enjoy the convenience of using their preferred intraoral impression system to take digital impressions for digital custom implant solutions that exhibit the level of precision they have come to expect from Glidewell Laboratories.

For more information, visit www.inclusivedental.com or call (888) 303-3975.

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