



## Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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**Practice Number:** 38007  
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### **Operating Room Dental Practice for People with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD)**

This hospital-based dental practice provides access to care for patients with special needs who require general anesthesia to obtain their treatment due to behavioral problems. Many of the patients with special needs have mental retardation, developmental disabilities, or other conditions that make it difficult or impossible for them to be served in typical community-based dental offices. As a result, dental care for these patients is often delayed and their conditions worsen, which may lead to dental pain and/or oral infections. Some do not receive the needed dental care. The number of dentists who can provide dental care in the hospital operating room is limited. Most general dentists have not been trained to provide hospital-based care and few have hospital privileges. The small number of dentists who have hospital privileges generally serve a few of patients in the hospital setting and may limit the number of new patients who require general anesthesia to their practice. It is often difficult for patients who need to be treated under general anesthesia to find a dentist, especially when a patient has Medicaid coverage with low reimbursement rates. To address these issues, Grandview Medical Center, in Dayton, Ohio, created a hospital-based special needs dental program and employed a full-time dentist to treat patients under general anesthesia in the operating room (OR). Approximately 400-500 patients are treated in the OR each year. The program has been operating since 2001 and is self-sustaining with the costs of the program off-set by revenue from dental services and operating room charges.

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#### **Contact Person(s) for Inquiries:**

Dennis C. Schaffer, DDS, Director, Special Needs Dental Program, Grandview Medical Center, 405 W. Grand Avenue, Dayton, OH 45405, Phone: 937-434-1261, Fax: 937-723-4931, Email: [dcschafferdds@hotmail.com](mailto:dcschafferdds@hotmail.com)