



June 29, 2010

Dr. Donald F. Schwarz
Deputy Mayor, Board of Health
City of Philadelphia
Administrative Office
1401 JFK Blvd, Room 600
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Dr. Schwarz:

It is my understanding that the Philadelphia Board of Health plans to clarify the requirement for a parent's or guardian's signature acknowledging receipt of the information sheet on amalgam fillings. Certainly, a statement by the Board that the dentist may note in his or her file that the information sheet was shared with the parent or guardian, who refused to sign it, would be useful. I look forward to reading the Board's letter on the matter.

Meanwhile, I would like to clarify a statement attributed to me by anti-amalgam activists. As you heard from dentists, some parents or guardians in Philadelphia have been unduly alarmed by the information sheet and have refused amalgam for patients, even though it is the recommended treatment.

In my practice, I treat patients with special needs at a dental office in North Philadelphia. I reported that some parents and guardians have refused amalgam for patients requiring full mouth rehabilitation under general anesthesia. I noted that most of the time I can explain why amalgam is the best treatment under these circumstances. However, if the parent or guardian still refuses, and it is my professional judgment that amalgam is the best and safest treatment option, they must find another provider because I am not comfortable providing my patients with something less than the best and safest treatment.

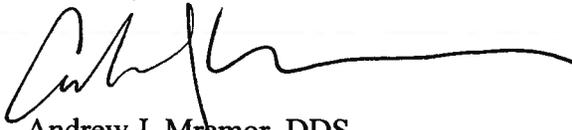


Despite the misleading statements from activists, it was never my intention to imply that I would not treat patients for any dental problem without a signature on the information sheet. I was very specific in stating the situation in which we need the ability to use amalgam. My direct quote, as stated in Dr. Peter Carroll's written testimony of February 11, 2010, was: "When providing full mouth rehab to patients under general anesthesia, it is imperative that we have the option of amalgam in our armamentarium. Generally, we can clarify the situation and proceed but if a guardian flatly refuses amalgam and will not sign the information sheet, we will not see the patient." This is because I do not feel I can offer such patients the best and safest treatment option. To do otherwise would be to ignore my professional judgment.

Again, I was referring to only patients who need amalgam fillings for full mouth rehabs under general anesthesia. I was not referring to every patient who comes to our clinic in need of services, despite the allegations of the activists. It is unfortunate that the activists are trying to besmirch the reputations of health providers who work daily with patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities in order to promote their radical agenda.

I look forward to the Board of Health clarifying the signature requirement. I hope that the Board will consider revising the information sheet to reflect the findings in the final ruling by the Food and Drug Administration, which determined that amalgam is a safe and effective material for treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew J. Mramor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew J. Mramor, DDS
Board of Governors
Philadelphia County Dental Society