
The National Society of Dental Practitioners and the Dentist's Advantage Insurance Program for Dentists

RISK MANAGEMENT ALERT

PATIENT SAFETY GUIDELINES CONCERNING DENTAL GAS AND VACUUM SYSTEMS

For the first time, the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Health Care Facilities Code includes a chapter on the protection of patients in a dental care facility. The chapter can be found in the 2018 edition of "NFPA 99, Health Care Facilities Code" and is entitled "Dental Gas and Vacuum Systems" and was written with input from the ADA. The publication is available at no cost on www.nfpa.org/99.

This new chapter will assist dental facilities in preventing malfunctions of gas and vacuum systems that can cause harm to patients. The publication provides detailed information on performance, installation and maintenance of gas and vacuum systems in dental facilities. This information will assist dentists and dental equipment suppliers and installers in the proper selection, installation and maintenance of these systems.

It is strongly advised for all owners of dental facilities to at least review this new publication as it will be the standard referred to in case of a patient incident involving these systems.

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