

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)

Awhile back, Deb Kappes responded to a survey from an Iowa dental hygienist, Mary Kelly, RDH, MS, on behalf of AZ regarding silver diamine fluoride (SDF) application by dental hygienists. Others in AZ may also have done so. Mary Kelly is a member of Iowa state board and chair of their DH Committee. The survey went out through an ADHA listserv, and the results of that survey are as follows:

- 52 respondents
- 31 unique states
- Among the 31 responding states:
 - 26 of the states allow SDF application by RDH.
 - 4 states specifically address SDF in board rules.
 - No states, which specifically address SDF in board rules, prohibit RDHS from applying.
 - 3 of the 4 state boards, which specifically address SDF in board rules, allow RDHs to apply without a prior dentist exam.
 - 13 states allow RDHs to apply SDF with Public Health Supervision (without a prior dentist exam).
 - 25 states allow SDF w/general supervision. (4 respondents did not check General although Public Health Supervision was checked which is a less restrictive supervision; therefore it was counted as General *and* *Public Health Supervision*).
 - 1 state allows SDF by RDHs with direct supervision only.

This is not a scientific study; however, it but does provide some insight as to how the use of this important caries-arresting medicament is being treated across states. It's looks pretty good for dental hygienists!

Source: Mary Kelly, RDH, MS

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