

AAO Council on Orthodontic Practice Update

The Council on Orthodontic Practice (COOP) currently has several subcommittees with new and ongoing projects. Here are some highlights from different subcommittees:

Practice Management Forms and Brochures: This subcommittee has recently recommended revisions in content and production of the AAO Informed Consent Video. This 15-minute video was previously created for doctors to review informed consent with patients and responsible parties.

This subcommittee also will review printed marketing materials recommended by the Council on Communication for distribution to general and pediatric dentists. The intent is to communicate and educate on appropriate timing of referrals for potential orthodontic patients.

All Things Webinars: We have great webinars coming up in the next couple of months. In March, join us to hear Dr. Ilyna Zinn share her own personal journey with Cleidocranial Dysplasia and review treatment considerations for CCD patients. Also in March, Brandon Collier will give a webinar entitled “The Attorney’s Are In: What to Know Before You Leave Residency”.

Practice Transitions: This subcommittee has been working on a project to develop useful content for orthodontists desiring to start up, buy, and/or sell orthodontic practices. Between now and May, 2025, 3 different groups of micro volunteers with recent content experience plus professionals who work in these areas are in the process of meeting, brainstorming, and mapping fresh content.

Sustainability: This subcommittee just launched a webpage on the AAO website with ideas that may be immediately implemented to improve sustainability measures in your daily orthodontic practice. To increase awareness, there will be a campaign at the AAO meeting for reusing water bottles. In May, watch for a webinar on Sustainability in Your Practice by Dr. Chris Oviedo.

Staff Shortages Subcommittee: This subcommittee is in the process of reviewing the Specialized Orthodontic Assistant Test questions for relevance and clarity. This is important considering recent developments in states where the AAO has advocated for less stringent requirements for dental assistant credentialing.

Recently there have been discussions regarding improvements to the online education portal for orthodontic teams. The former “**Staff Club**” will likely be revamped to be broader in scope and provide specific educational tools for new employees and continued education for current employees.

The Office Design Series is in the process of updating content from Module 6 in the online series. Specifically, design regarding IT infrastructure will be updated soon.

Respectfully submitted,

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