

Economizing



Accumulation of ten (10) demerits for restroom violations will be cause for termination.

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ILLUSTRATION
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In this perilous time of worldwide economic tribulation, it is becoming increasingly clear that it is easy to economize if you are broke. When you put this seriously into practice what you do is buy the giant 5-pound jar of peanut butter at Costco, then buy the smallest economy car that will accommodate two clowns and gets 50 miles per gallon of reconstituted methane. It's the American way of watching the government running in the red and concluding the economic state of the nation must be rosy.

Dentistry's worst nightmare currently is that some mid-Eastern cartel will corner the market on the world's supply of porcelain, driving us ever closer to needing a multimillion-dollar bailout from the American Dental Association. Rather than sit by idly worrying if the same thing could happen to titanium, our office is immediately instituting measures to become more cost effective.

The following memo has been circulated amongst our two employees:

■ We have signed with a selected group of PPO organizations who have generously volunteered to maintain a strict adherence

to a new downsized fee schedule by refusing to pay more than a table of allowances as determined by their skilled and highly remunerated executives.

■ The cost of disposable items has become disproportionate to the convenience thereof. Effective immediately, their use will be sharply curtailed as follows:

A. At the start of business on Monday each week one (1) pair of latex gloves shall be issued to each employee. It will be your responsibility to maintain the gloves' integrity until the next weekly issue. When any given procedure does not require the use of both hands, a single glove shall be worn on the appropriate hand. Gloves shall be washed between patients using a generic Costco material obtained from the 50-gallon drum in the lab. They are to be waved about vigorously in open sunlight to render them semi-sterile. Careless glove maintenance requiring the use of duct tape will be penalized according to the demerit schedule issued previously.

B. Facial tissues and patient bibs account for 36 percent of the office supply

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budget. Henceforth, female patients shall be instructed to remove lipstick or gloss before leaving home. Male patients should use their ties if available, otherwise continue to wipe their mouths with the backs of their hands as before. Both sexes shall be instructed in the technique of rinsing to minimize bib slobbering when under the influence of a mandibular block.

C. Proprietary mouthwashes shall be available at a nominal extra cost. Tap water will be provided at no cost other than 18 cents per plastic cup.

D. Patient bibs shall be recycled at the end of business each day. Assistants with the rank of RDA and below shall hose down used bibs in the parking lot and hang them up about the operatories overnight to dry.

E. Stone models shall be recycled by beating them repeated with a blunt object such as your shoe until reduced to pieces no larger than 2 mm on a side. Placed in a blender or Cuisinart for 2.5 minutes, they should be reduced to powder for reuse.

F. Current impression and filling materials are no longer cost effective under the management's new fee schedule. The present cost of \$65 for 5 ml of bonding material has been reduced by purchasing it in 10-gallon lots from a Tijuana outlet at a savings of \$56,000. Surplus stocks of silicate cement and red base plate wax, both of which worked well in the past, will be reintroduced.

■ The telephone company has installed a voice recognition module. When it recognizes one of your family or friends on an incoming call, a recorded message announces "This number is no longer in service. The party with whom you wish to speak can be reached via Western Union or the U.S. Postal Service."

■ A recent study by the Bureau of Human Resources has confirmed that employees are abusing their restroom privileges. This has resulted in the following changes to our Restroom Policy:

A. Upon the completion of the restroom refitting, an ATM card shall be required for admission to the facilities.

Your card will activate a timer preset for five (5) minutes, an interval management deems generous enough for the completion of your business there.

B. In the event of further dalliance, the toilet will flush automatically, the stall door will fly open, other amenities will be rendered inoperable and the surveillance camera will take your picture. Accumulation of ten (10) demerits for restroom violations will be cause for termination.

■ The installation of vending machines in the reception area is now completed. Service will be provided by Ptomaine Tommy's Fawly Foods, Inc., low contract bidder. While not mandatory, use of the machines enables you to take advantage of the 15-minute lunch break.

■ Medical benefits continue as before with minor modifications. Johnson & John-

son is the new carrier. Benefits will be confined to those that can be treated in-house with the carrier's products, not to exceed four (4) Band-Aids in any one quarter.

■ The previous policy of five (5) paid public holidays per year has resulted in dissension when one or more of them fell on a Sunday. The new Holiday Policy has been consolidated into a fairer and more easily regulated one. Christmas, New Year's Day, 4th of July, Memorial Day and G.V. Black's birthday have been replaced by Leap Year's Day. February 29th will be observed henceforth even if it falls on a weekend.

The management appreciates your cooperation in following the above guidelines to accomplish our mutual goal of doing more for less. Please initial this memo with one hand on the Bible. Choice of hands is optional. ■■■■

