



Connecticut State Dental Association

835 West Queen Street
Southington, CT 06489
860.378.1800/phone
860.378.1807/fax
www.CSDA.com

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CONNECTICUT STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION PRAISES STATE DENTAL COMMISSION RULING ON TOOTH WHITENING

Procedures Rightly Deemed To Be the Practice of Dentistry

HARTFORD, CT – The State Dental Commission today ruled that certain tooth whitening procedures fall under the definition of the practice of dentistry and as such, can only be performed by licensed dentists in the state. The [Connecticut State Dental Association](http://www.CSDA.com) (CSDA) argued in testimony before the Commission that certain tooth whitening procedures are the treatment of a condition of the oral cavity or its contents (as defined in the Connecticut General Statute Sec. 20-123) and that licensed dentists were best qualified to identify and treat tooth stains.

“Patients’ teeth can become stained from food or beverages, such as coffee or tea, or from smoking. Sometimes, however, these stains can be caused by medical conditions,” said Dr. Tatiana Barton, CSDA President. “Dentists are best qualified to diagnose the cause of tooth discoloration and suggest the most appropriate treatment.”

In fact, many tooth whitening products and treatments can be harmful if not applied properly. Some, for example, can cause chemical burns and can harm teeth and tissue if left in for too long or if used at too high a concentration.

“Over the counter products contain a small percent of the whitening compound found in professional products and leave some room for error,” said Dr. Barton. “However, patients who want a stronger tooth whitening solution should seek a recommendation from their dentist who can best diagnose their individual needs and treat it accordingly. We are very pleased that the Commission agreed with this approach.”

About Connecticut State Dental Association

The Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) has approximately 2,670 members including dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants. As the trusted leader and voice for oral health care in CT, the CSDA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1864. For more information about the CSDA, visit the Association's Web site at www.csda.com.

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CONTACT:

Randi Sussman
Communications Manager
Connecticut State Dental Association
860.378.1800
RSussman@csda.com