



news bites

the FDA's official e-newsletter



NORTH EAST
DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2026

A WIN FOR FLORIDA DENTISTS: AETNA SAYS PAPER CHECKS WILL REMAIN AN OPTION

AETNA REVERSES COURSE



Paper checks will remain an option for Florida dentists.



What the FDA did:

The FDA, alongside the ADA, challenged the proposed policy and urged Aetna not to implement a change that could limit payment options for out-of-network dentists.

What changed:

Aetna has notified Florida dentists that its previous communication regarding the discontinuation of paper checks and EOBs was sent "in error."

The latest:

Aetna now says dentists who received the notice will continue to receive paper checks and EOBs as they have previously, with direct deposit also available as an option.

FDA ADVOCACY DELIVERS FOR FLORIDA DENTISTS!

After the Florida Dental Association (FDA) and the American Dental Association (ADA) challenged Aetna's plan to discontinue paper checks for out-of-network dentists and urged the company to reconsider, Aetna has reversed course.

Aetna now says the original communication announcing the change was sent "in error." While that explanation raises some questions, the outcome is clear: **Florida dentists can continue to receive paper checks and EOBs as before, with direct deposit also available.**

This is advocacy in action. The FDA stood up for Florida dentists, pushed back on a policy that could limit payment choice, and made sure your concerns were heard. Your voice is stronger with the FDA behind it.

If you have questions, please contact FDA Chief Legal Officer Casey Stoutamire at cstoutamire@floridadental.org or 850.350.7202.

REMINDER: NEW ANESTHESIA AND SEDATION PERMIT HOLDER REQUIREMENTS

Several new Florida Board of Dentistry anesthesia rules took effect Aug. 19, 2026. Dentists who provide sedation are encouraged to review the following changes carefully to ensure their practices are prepared to comply with the new requirements regarding equipment, patient monitoring, anesthesia permits, inspections and authorized locations.

- An Electrocardiograph (EKG) is now required as standard equipment for moderate sedation permit holders.
- The patient who is administered a drug(s) for moderate sedation must be continuously monitored intraoperatively by electrocardio-graph (EKG), in addition to pulse oximetry and capnograph and the continuously monitored vital signs must be taken and recorded at a minimum of 5-minute intervals.
- A pulse oximeter is required for all procedures performed in a dental office that involve the use of minimal sedation and its same day preop and postop readings must be documented in the dental records.
- An applicant for any type of anesthesia permit must submit proof of:
 - (b) Documentation of actual clinical administration of anesthetics to 20 dental or oral and maxillofacial patients conducted within two (2) years prior to the permit application date of the particular type of anesthetics for

(Continued on page 3)

01
OCTOBER
2026

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7743 Alphons Street, 32256

RSVP: Space is limited -

RSVP at

ddeville@nedda.org



REMINDER: NEW ANESTHESIA AND SEDATION PERMIT HOLDER REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

the permit applied for. The level of sedation in each case must correspond to the level of sedation addressed in the particular permit. The submitted dental records must demonstrate compliance with Rules 64B5-14.008(7) and (8), 64B5-14.009(7) and (8), or 64B5-14.010(7) and (8), F.A.C. as it pertains to the type of permit and with the minimum standard of performance in diagnosis and treatment as set forth in Section 466.028(1)(x), F.S.

- An applicant for a Pediatric Moderate Sedation Permit who completed the required clinical demonstration of anesthetics more than two (2) years prior to submission of the application have the option to satisfy the requirement by completing the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry's comprehensive course on the Safe & Effective Sedation for the Pediatric Dental Patient. This course must be completed in person.
- During the initial inspection a dental procedure must be observed and evaluated and the dentist must demonstrate full knowledge and treatment of the patient during simulated emergencies. This demonstration must include placement of an intravenous catheter by the dentist themselves.
 - The anesthesia committee and board remind sedation permit holders that IV access of any kind is not a delegable duty to a dental assistant or hygienist. Furthermore, EMTs and paramedics are not sanctioned anesthesia providers.
- When a permit holder informs the Board office of a change in authorized locations, the notice must be sent to mqa.dentalsedation@flhealth.gov. Written confirmation of receipt of the aforementioned notification must be received from the Board office prior to the holder of any general anesthesia, moderate sedation, or pediatric moderate sedation permit administering any sedation at any of the new or additional locations. Any additional location shall be subject to a routine inspection no later than one year from the date of the added location.

If you have any questions, please contact the FDA's Chief Legal Officer Casey Stoutamire at cstoutamire@floridadental.org.



Two important EKG changes for moderate sedation permit holders:

1. EKG equipment is now required

An electrocardiograph (EKG) is now required as standard equipment for moderate sedation permit holders.

2. Continuous EKG monitoring is now required

Patients administered drug(s) for moderate sedation must be continuously monitored intraoperatively by EKG, in addition to pulse oximetry and capnography.

Continuously monitored vital signs must be taken and recorded at a minimum of 5-minute intervals.

These are part of several anesthesia rule changes taking effect.

Questions or need clarification on the additional requirements?

Contact FDA Chief Legal Officer Casey Stoutamire:
cstoutamire@floridadental.org

FREE WEBINAR FOR FDA MEMBERS ON SEPTEMBER 9!



Make plans to attend the FREE webinar "Muscle and Joint Injury After Extractions — Why and What to Do Pre- and Post-Dental Treatment: A Physical Therapy Perspective," presented by Dr. Erienne Blanchard Sept. 9.

Extractions and implants can sometimes lead to unexpected muscle and joint complications. This webinar will explore how patient screening, pre-treatment preparation and post-treatment education can help reduce the risk of injury and support recovery. You'll also learn when a referral to physical therapy may be appropriate and strategies for addressing prolonged trismus. **Earn 1 hour of continuing education (CE) for attending this webinar!** Click [here](#) to reserve your spot today.

Local Volunteer Opportunity:

Join FSCJ's Dental Programs Business Industry Leadership Team (BILT)

FSCJ's Dental Programs are seeking local dentists to serve on their Business Industry Leadership Team (BILT), the program's advisory committee. BILT members provide valuable insight into current trends and needs within the dental profession, helping ensure that graduates are well prepared to enter the workforce and succeed from day one after licensure.

The committee meets twice each year - in April and October - at 6:00 p.m. on FSCJ's North Campus. Meetings typically last about 90 minutes, and a light meal is provided.

If you are interested in supporting the next generation of dental professionals or would like additional information, please contact **Dr. Jeff Smith at 904-766-6655**.



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AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

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▶ IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR WIND!



The **Women Inspire & Navigate Dentistry (WIND)** event is being held on Friday, Sept. 18, at the W Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. This one-of-a-kind event blends the science and skill you need to elevate your practice with the connection and camaraderie that fuel your spirit. At WIND, you'll:

- Earn 5 hours of CE credit toward your license renewal.
- Learn in an intimate, peer-to-peer setting with fellow women dentists.
- Gain real-world strategies you can use immediately in your practice.
- Connect with inspiring women who “get” what you do.
- Soak up a little coastal magic while you're at it.

This isn't your typical conference. It's a day designed for women, by women — combining education, connection and rejuvenation in one unforgettable experience. Click [here](#) to check out the scientific program and to register for \$449 as an FDA member.

New to WIND? First-time attendees can take 10% off registration fees with code **EMPOWER** at checkout.

▶ DENTAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS ARE ON THE RISE; PREVENTION IS KEY!

With dental malpractice claims on the rise, now is a great time to make sure your entire team knows about the resources available to help reduce risk and improve patient safety.

FDA Director of Insurance Operations, Carrie Millar, sat down with Nichole Pieters of The Doctors Company to discuss the valuable patient safety and risk management resources available to policyholders and their entire office team.

Take a few minutes to [watch](#) the conversation and learn about the tools, education and support available to help protect your patients, providers and practice.

Go to bit.ly/3Snya4V to watch the video and explore the resources available to you.



▶ NEW BENEFIT FOR COALITION CYBER POLICYHOLDERS



Coalition cyber policyholders now have access to **Login Security through Coalition Control at no additional cost**. This new cybersecurity benefit connects with Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace and runs automatically in the background to help strengthen login security and reduce the risk of account compromise.

If you already have a Coalition cyber policy, FDA Services (FDAS) encourages you to take advantage of this new benefit.

Not currently insured with Coalition? Contact FDAS at 850.350.7155 to learn more about cyber liability insurance and the proactive cybersecurity resources available with coverage.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Address Change? Email Update? Planning to Retire?

Review and update your contact information before membership renewal begins in **November**.

If you plan to retire before March 31, 2027, let us know. We will send you the retired status affidavit needed to update your membership status.



Update your information: ada.org/myada

Request a retired affidavit: fda@floridadental.org • 850.681.3629



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Dentists' Day *on the* Hill

Save the Date

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2027

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



Scan the QR code to **reserve your room** in the Four Points by Sheraton room block.

Scan the QR code to register, or visit floridadental.org/ddoh.



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► MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL 2027!

[Registration for 2027 Dentists' Day on the Hill \(DDOH\) is now open!](#) It will take place on Tuesday, March 23, 2027, with a legislative briefing on Monday, March 22 at 6 p.m. at Bricks and Brass, 320 W. Tennessee Street (located next to the host hotel). After the legislative briefing, there will be a complimentary buffet dinner at the same location. If you plan on attending the briefing and dinner, please add both items to your registration. Don't miss this opportunity to join colleagues from across the state in Tallahassee and demonstrate the strength of organized dentistry. Register today!

The FDA has a room block at the Four Points by Sheraton for \$279 a night. To book your room, please call 850.422.0071 and reference the "Florida Dental Association" or click [here](#) to reserve your room online.

Please note: Room reservations should only be made for yourself/parties staying in the same room. Multiple rooms reserved under one name for any affiliate or district may be subject to cancellation by the FDA. Thank you for your cooperation.

As we get closer to DDOH, registrants will receive important updates to help them plan and prepare for this highly anticipated event. **[Register today to ensure you receive updates on important information throughout the year.](#)** If you have questions or need additional information, contact the Governmental Affairs Office at 850.224.1089 or gao@floridadental.org.

Click [here](#) to check out the 2026 DDOH highlight video or click on the graphic below!



► WORKFORCE CHALLENGES? UTILIZE THE FDA'S JUMPSTART PROGRAM

The FDA's Jumpstart program is an initiative to connect member dentists with pre-dental students who are interested in volunteering or working with dental offices. It's a creative solution to assist in solving workforce challenges faced by Florida dentists. Jumpstart is a fast pass for students to gain real-world experience, connect with dentists and master skills that will help them stand out in the dental school application process and in the competitive field of dentistry. All of this while providing staffing for offices that may have difficulty hiring the right people. A true win-win!



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As a result of the FDA's efforts, members can access a student directory at floridadental.org/jumpstart. It notes students' geographic location, interests and roles they could fill. If you have an interest in engaging any of these students, please contact them directly and make suitable arrangements. If you know pre-dental students who may be interested in registering, encourage them to visit floridadental.org/jumpstart to sign up and learn more about transforming their enthusiasm into expertise.



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- **Board-approved** Labs



Your Team's Next Career Move Starts Here.

The Florida Dental Association's Restorative Function for Dental Auxiliaries (RFDA) training and certification equips qualified dental assistants and hygienists to perform restorative procedures under a Florida dentist's supervision — reducing chair time, increasing efficiency and elevating patient care. After a supervising dentist prepares the tooth, certified RFDAAs may:



Place, pack and
contour restorative
materials



Size, fit and
contour stainless
steel crowns



Use slow-speed
handpieces and hand
instruments only

Train Your Team. Be an Instructor.

Qualified dentists can serve as RFDA instructors, training the next generation of dental auxiliaries, whether for a single day or a full program. It's a rewarding way to work hands-on with your team or support the profession, all while being compensated for your time.



Ready to take the next step?

Scan the QR code to join the interest list. Be the first to know about upcoming programs for your team or learn how you can get involved as an instructor.

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A HIGHER STANDARD ... A HIGHER CALLING

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 2-3 2027

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▶ PLAN TO ATTEND – FDA LEADERSHIP WEBINAR SERIES

Leadership is more than just a title and developing your leadership skills can make a difference in every part of your professional life.

Join us for the **FDA Leadership Webinar Series**, a three-part series hosted by communication coach Tiffany Olson, designed to help you communicate with confidence, strengthen your influence and become a more effective leader in your practice and profession.

Consider these webinars your preview of the **Leaders Emerging Among Dentists (LEAD)** event being held on Jan. 22 in Orlando. LEAD registration opens Oct. 1.

- Sept. 29 | 6:30-7:30 PM EST | Difficult Conversations
- Oct. 21 | 12:00-1:00 PM EST | Becoming a Respected Leader
- Nov. 17 | 6:30-7:30 PM EST | The Art of Persuasion

Whether you're leading a team, navigating challenging conversations or looking to grow your influence, there's something in this webinar series for you!

Learn more and save your spot at floridadental.org/LEAD.



The graphic features a yellow background with five light bulbs hanging from the top. The first bulb on the left is illuminated, with white lines radiating from it. The other four bulbs are unlit. Below the bulbs, the Florida Dental Association logo is displayed, consisting of the letters 'fda' in a white box and the words 'florida dental ASSOCIATION' to its right. Below the logo, the word 'LEAD' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath 'LEAD', the words 'LEADERS EMERGING AMONG DENTISTRY' are written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the logo and text, there is a dark grey rectangular box with white and yellow text. The text inside the box reads: 'SAVE THE DATE' in large yellow letters, followed by 'Friday, January 22, 2027 | Orlando, FL' in white. Below this, it says 'REGISTRATION WILL OPEN' in white, followed by 'OCTOBER 1ST' in large yellow letters. To the right of the text is a QR code. At the bottom of the graphic, the text 'GROW YOUR IMPACT. BUILD YOUR NETWORK. LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE.' is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, January 22, 2027 | Orlando, FL
REGISTRATION WILL OPEN
OCTOBER 1ST

GROW YOUR IMPACT. BUILD YOUR NETWORK. LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE.

Connect with peers and share insights

GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED!



Do you have recommendations on navigating insurance denying a root canal treatment and crown lengthening done on the same day?

Have you seen the updates to the student loan repayment program?

Is anyone else having a payment issue with a third-party payer?

I'm graduating soon. What is the biggest thing dental school didn't teach you that you wish they had?

It was great connecting with my friends at the Florida Mission of Mercy!



 Join us at facebook.com/groups/floridadentalchatter.

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busy dental teams.



▶ **IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING BUYING OR STARTING YOUR FIRST DENTAL PRACTICE,
JOIN BANK OF AMERICA FOR A FREE WEBINAR**

Thinking about buying or starting your first dental practice? Join an expert panel for a free webinar on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 6-7 p.m. covering the financial, legal and tax considerations every prospective practice owner should understand. You'll learn about evaluating ownership opportunities, financing options, legal considerations, tax and financial strategies and how to build the right advisory team to help guide you through the process. RSVP at dg.cmevent@bofa.com or 614.542.9862.



Exclusive Webinar:

Ready to Own?

**The Financial, Legal, and Tax
Guide to buying or starting
your first Dental Practice**

Brought to you by:



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Practice Solutions*



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*CPA: SBDP CPA's
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Lisa Albrecht
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Chad Clark
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Key Discussions & Insights:

- Evaluate practice ownership opportunities
- Understand financing options
- Identify critical legal issues that arise
- Develop foundational tax and financial strategies
- Build an advisory team and ownership road map



Thursday, October 22 @ 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Format: Webinar - no cost - RSVP below

RSVP TODAY!

Email or call:



614-542-9862



dg.cmevent@bofa.com

FDAS HEALTH

SOLUTION CENTER

The FDAS Health Solution Center is available until Tuesday Dec. 15, 2026 to help you enroll in your 2027 health plan.

Visit fdaservices.com/health any time to learn more or contact us at 850.681.2996 Monday through Friday.

Important Dates



2027 OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS



2027 OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS

Don't Wait To Call!

We can help until December 15.



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Fund Florida's Dental Community.

► **SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2027 FLORIDA DENTAL CONVENTION –
UNITING DENTISTRY'S ALL-STARS!**

Dentistry's all-stars are coming together for the 2027 Florida Dental Convention (FDC), June 24-26 at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando! Join dental professionals throughout Florida and beyond for three days of exceptional education, connection and innovation.

With 150-plus CE courses, 350-plus top dental vendors, hands-on learning and endless networking opportunities, FDC2027 brings together everything you need to strengthen your skills, discover what's next in dentistry and connect with your dental community while enjoying the beauty and luxury of the Gaylord Palms Resort. Take your game to the next level by making plans to attend FDC2027, June 24-26, in Orlando. Visit floridadentalconvention.com to learn more.

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

★★★
**UNITING
DENTISTRY'S**
All-Stars

JUNE 24-26, 2027
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Support Starts Here.

FDA Member Assistance Program (MAP)

Built for You. Extended to Your Team.

The FDA Member Assistance Program (MAP) provides trusted resources, expert guidance and confidential support at no cost to help you reduce stress, improve mental health and make life easier **with resources now available for you and your entire team.**

MAP Resources

Balancing your practice and personal life can be challenging. With MAP, support is closer than you think. Resources include:

- Mental Wellness Counseling
- Stress Management Assistance
- Child and Elder Care Resources
- Grief and Loss Support
- 24/7 Mental Health Support
- Life Coaching
- Legal Referrals
- Financial Consultation

Getting Connected is Easy

No matter the concern, find the **free confidential support** you need with MAP.

- FDA members receive up to 4 counseling sessions, covering all household members.
- Team members who work for an FDA member receive in-the-moment counseling.

You may be thinking...

Between patients and staff, I am feeling stretched thin. How do I handle it all?

I need help with finding my work-life-balance.

I'm feeling overwhelmed with my student loans. Where do I begin?

Where do I even start on finding support for my aging parents?

Call: 800.451.1834

or visit AllOneHealth.com/portal to access your services.

FDA Member Code: fdamap
Team Member Code: fdastaff

For information on all wellness resources available for FDA members and their team, visit floridadental.org/healthydentist.



▶ DENTAL LIFELINE NETWORK'S FLORIDA DONATED DENTAL SERVICES PROGRAM RESTORING MORE THAN A SMILE

Cheko, a 50-year-old Navy veteran and dedicated community volunteer, has spent his life serving others. After a devastating car accident led to years of surgeries, infections and chronic pain, the medications he relied on took a serious toll on his oral health. His deteriorating teeth left him in constant pain and deeply self-conscious.

"I was always looking down or turning away," Cheko shared. "I never wanted anyone to see my teeth."

Thanks to volunteer dentists Drs. **Schweiger** and **Lazaro**, Cheko received the dental care he desperately needed and something more: his confidence back.

"I have confidence again," he says. "When I'm out in the community helping others, I'm not thinking about my teeth anymore."

Cheko continues to serve his community through his church, the Rotary Club's Reading Bus and efforts to ensure local children and families have access to food and resources.

Dr. Schweiger shared, "It has been my honor to give back to a gentleman who has spent his life giving to others."

Because two volunteer dentists said yes to one patient, Cheko can once again smile, serve and make a difference in the lives of others without worrying about hiding his teeth.

More than 400 Floridians who are elderly, permanently disabled or medically fragile and cannot afford dental treatment are still waiting.

Join Florida dentists who volunteer with *Donated Dental Services* (DDS) and help just one patient this year.

Learn more by clicking on the QR code to the right, or sign up at dentallifeline.org.



NEED HELP WITH PATIENT COMPLAINTS?

The Peer Review program is designed to help Florida Dental Association member dentists.

Avoid costly legal fees, malpractice suits and Board of Dentistry complaints by using this free service exclusively for members.



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PEER REVIEW

Learn more online at FloridaDental.org/PeerReview or by contacting FDA Peer Review Coordinator Lywanda Tucker at 850.350.7143 or ltucker@floridadental.org

▶ FINCEN PERMANENTLY ENDS BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. SMALL BUSINESSES

Final rule makes March 2025 relief permanent following years of American Dental Association (ADA) advocacy

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has finalized a rule making permanent in regulation the exemption from beneficial ownership information reporting requirements for U.S. companies, delivering the permanent relief the ADA had sought for dental practices.

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN, announced Aug. 11 that U.S. companies will remain exempt from beneficial ownership information reporting under the Corporate Transparency Act. FinCEN also said it will remove previously submitted information about U.S. companies and U.S. persons that is no longer required. Businesses and individuals do not need to contact FinCEN to request deletion, and the agency will announce when the deletion process is complete.

The final rule makes permanent the exemptions FinCEN first established in an interim final rule in March 2025. That interim rule had already relieved U.S.-created companies, including dental practices, of their filing obligations. The final rule will take effect upon publication in the Federal Register.

The ADA had advocated for relief from the Corporate Transparency Act, or CTA, requirements, which would have affected many dental practices. The Association joined small business coalitions pressing Congress for relief, supported efforts to delay the filing deadline and penalties, and in December 2024 said it would continue working with Congress, its small-business partners and the incoming administration to pursue a permanent solution.

The Corporate Transparency Act was enacted by Congress in 2021 as part of broader anti-money laundering legislation. It was intended to help combat the use of businesses for money laundering and other illicit activity by requiring certain companies to disclose information about the people who ultimately own or control them. Critics of the law argued that it imposed high front-office costs and logistical burdens on legitimate American businesses. FinCEN's original reporting rule took effect Jan. 1, 2024.

Under the original requirements, many dental practices would have had to report information about the practice and its beneficial owners. ADA News previously reported that dental practices were subject to the requirements if they employed fewer than 20 people or generated less than \$5 million in annual gross receipts. Required information about beneficial owners included names, dates of birth, residential addresses and identifying information from a driver's license, passport or state identification card.

The original law also carried significant civil and criminal penalties for willful violations. In a 2024 coalition letter, the ADA and more than 120 other trade associations raised concerns about the impact of the reporting requirements on small businesses and called for temporary relief.

"The [Corporate Transparency Act] began as an earnest attempt to combat illicit financial activity but has morphed into a bureaucratic nightmare targeted squarely at America's smallest businesses," according to the letter.

For dentists, the practical takeaway is straightforward: dental practices created in the United States do not need to file beneficial ownership information reports or update or correct reports previously filed. U.S. persons who obtained FinCEN identifiers also no longer need to update or correct the information associated with them.

Foreign entities that qualify as reporting companies will continue to have reporting obligations for non-U.S. beneficial owners and company applicants, subject to the final rule's exemptions. FinCEN has also issued frequently asked questions and said it will update its online guidance to reflect the final rule.

While the final rule makes the exemption permanent in federal regulation, the Corporate Transparency Act remains law and the issue could be revisited. Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., who helped develop the legislation that ultimately became the CTA, criticized the final rule Aug. 13, arguing that exempting U.S. companies undermines congressional intent. The ADA will continue to monitor congressional, regulatory and legal developments that could affect reporting requirements for dental practices and other small businesses.

By Olivia Anderson, ADA Morning Huddle.

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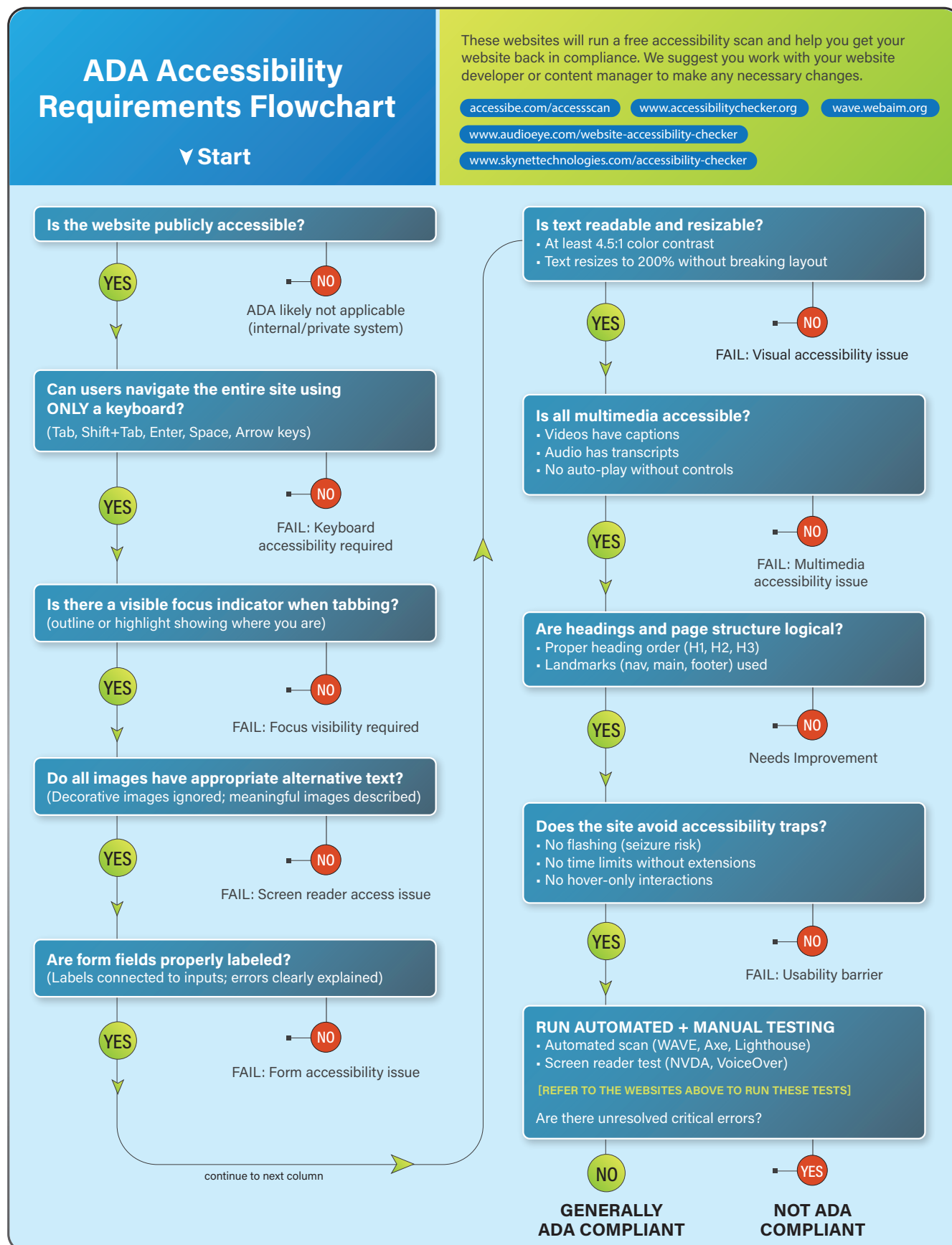
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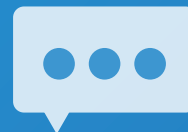
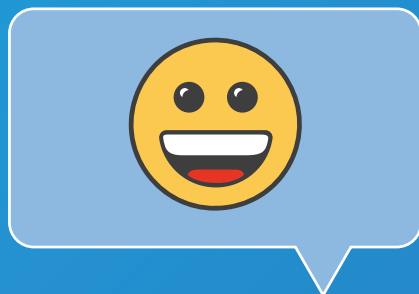
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Stay informed with updates on the education and event offerings for the Florida Dental Convention. You'll also find details about other continuing education events hosted by the FDA, including webinars, Women Inspire and Navigate Dentistry (WIND) and more.

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