

Mashkiiziibii Dental Journal

Monthly dental newsletter

Editor: Dr. Victoria Gokee, DDS

IHS Dental Conference: Emerging from the Pandemic – Nashville, Tennessee

Two members of our dental team were able to attend the bi-annual IHS conference in Nashville at the end of last month to represent the Bad River Health and Wellness Center. It was a four-day conference packed with dental updates from headquarters, continuing education lectures, and networking.

Jerelyn's summary: "It was a great experience to network and learn evidence-based practices with other dental professionals within the IHS, tribal, and urban dental program staff. Those professionals that serve in different capacities included IHS Headquarters Division of Oral Health staff, dental support area staff, area dental officers, dental directors, dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, and dental assistants. Topics at this conference included resources available through IHS dental support center, dental health record (Dentrix) features, effective communication with patients and coworkers, integration of dental into medical setting, cultural humility, dental outreach, dental sealant and fluoride updates, and temporomandibular disorders. The knowledge gained from the educational sessions that composed this conference will be of great value to our clinic, patient care, and expansion of services. I am excited to share this valuable knowledge with patients, staff, and management."

Dr. Gokee's summary: "This conference was extremely valuable. I attended lectures on topics from multidisciplinary care, oral cancer, endodontics, prosthodontics, first molar substitution, pediatric care, orofacial pain, to practice management - all of which directly impact the patient care I provide. I was able to receive a plethora of knowledge relating to these topics and I plan to implement it into my patient care. I was able to network with dentists and dental directors from other tribal and federal IHS facilities. It was very beneficial hearing about the issues other clinics have and their solutions. I hope to stay in close contact with the people I met to help create a healthy working environment with patient-centered care here at the Bad River dental clinic."

The next IHS Dental Conference will be held in 2025. We will be sending different staff members to be able to experience the conference, network, and bring valuable information back to our dental clinic to impact patient care.



Jerelyn and Dr. Gokee representing Bad River at the IHS Dental Updates Conference

Staff Highlight: Melissa Ashmun, Dental Billing Coordinator

Family: 2 sons, Haydin and Callen

Hobbies: Road trips or traveling whether its near or far, concerts, four-wheeling, boating, sewing, professional sports games and most of all attending my sons' sports games.

Hometown: Bad River, WI

How long you have been in your position: I've been in this current position going on 3 years, but I have been employed with BRHWC for a total of 8+ years.

Favorite thing about working in Bad River: Knowing that I'm contributing positively back to the health of our community members.

Hopes for the dental clinic in the next year: Excited for the BRHWC expansion to begin along with the potential for dental services to be expanded.

Any additional information you would like to share: As the Dental Billing Coordinator, I work mostly behind the scenes. A few of my responsibilities involve creating and billing out dental claims to each patient's dental insurance company, coordination of the credentialing process for dental providers, and reconciliation of billed services.

Melissa is an integral part of the dental team that is often unknown and goes unnoticed. Our dental team is extremely appreciative of the diligence Melissa has. Chi-miigwech Melissa!



Normal business hours 8:00 – 4:30 PM
Monday – Friday
Closed for tribal holidays

Upcoming closure dates:
8/18/23, 9/4/23, 9/22/23, 9/29/23

Direct dental phone number:
(715)685-7887

Services we offer:

Call us with any questions or to schedule your appointment today!



- Comprehensive and periodic exams to monitor your oral health with radiographs
- Prophylaxis: regular dental cleanings
- Sealants: protective covering in deep pits/grooves of teeth to help prevent cavities
- SRP: scaling and root planning, aka “deep cleanings” for patients with periodontal disease
- Fillings: removal and replacement of cavities, replacement of missing tooth structure
- Root canals: removal of nerve within the tooth with a filling put inside tooth
- Extractions: pulling teeth
- Biopsies: testing of suspicious tissue
- Invisalign: removable trays to align teeth
- Whitening trays: trays that fit over teeth to put whitening gel in

- Crowns: full coverage restoration of teeth, aka “caps”
- Implant crowns: caps over screws that are placed in the jaw
We are not placing implants
- Brides/fixed partial dentures: full coverage restorations that stay in your mouth with pontics or “hanging teeth” to fill in a space or two
- Removable partial dentures: prosthesis that is removed nightly to replace teeth
- Complete dentures: full set of fake teeth that you remove nightly
- Other miscellaneous surgeries

As an IHS clinic we offer our direct services at no charge to tribal members from any reservation regardless of insurance status.

Direct services include things that we do directly at our clinic: exams, cleanings, fillings, root canals, and pulling teeth.

Services that have a fee include things we need to send off to a lab such as: crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, Invisalign



Crown



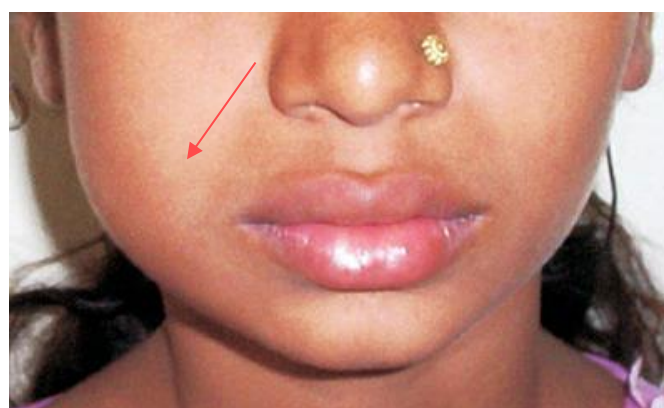
Bridge/fixed partial denture



Removable partial denture



Complete dentures



Example of dental emergency with lower right side of the face swelling from infected tooth.

Bad River Dental has an emergency walk in clinic. If you have emergency needs such as facial swelling or uncontrollable pain, we encourage you to come in from 12:30 – 3:00 Monday – Friday on days the tribe is open. Once here, you will be evaluated and seen based on severity.

If you have an urgent need such as a broken tooth without pain, please call us at (715)685-7887. If no answer, feel free to leave a voicemail.

Dental fun fact:

Root canals are performed with tiny files and instruments and are sometimes done in two steps with a medicine placed between visits.

Ojibwe dental word of the month:

She/he has sleep apnea =
wiikwaanaamoshkaa gii-nibaad

Please email v.gokee@badriverhwc.com with any questions or topics you would like addressed in next month's issue! All submissions will remain anonymous.

Dental emergency vs a dental urgency

Emergency patient: someone in need of immediate care and attention. Emergent needs include: significant pain, noticeable swelling on the face, difficulty opening their mouth and/or someone who has sustained trauma to the face within the past 24 hours.

If you have trouble breathing, swallowing your own spit, or swelling below the jawbone please go to the ER.

Urgency patient: someone in need of swift dental intervention. Urgent needs include: front tooth chip, broken dentures, lost crown/temporary on teeth without root canals, or need for medical clearance for surgery. These appointments can be scheduled and do not need to walk-in.

Miigwech for reading, please be on the lookout for our next monthly issue!

