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American National Standard/
American Dental Association

Standard No. 1058

Forensic Dental Data Set

ADA American Dental Association®

2010

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION STANDARD NO. 1058 FOR FORENSIC DENTAL DATA SET

The Council on Dental Practice of the American Dental Association has approved American Dental Association Standard No. 1058 for Forensic Dental Data Set. Working Groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) formulate this and other specifications and technical reports for the application of information technology and other electronic technologies to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations. The ADA SCDI has representation from appropriate interests in the United States in the standardization of information technology and other electronic technologies used in dental practice. The standard was forwarded to the American National Standards Institute with a recommendation that the standard be approved as an American National Standard. Approval of ADA Standard No. 1058 as an American National Standard was granted by the American National Standards Institute on November 2, 2010.

This standard was prepared by SCDI Joint Working Group 10.12 on Forensic Odontology Informatics, a joint working group with Working Group 11.1 on Standard Clinical Data Architecture.

The ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics thanks the members of Joint Working Group 10.12 on Forensic Odontology Informatics and the organizations with which they were affiliated at the time the standard was developed, shown with the professional organization or interest group they represent:

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AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION STANDARD NO. 1058 FOR FORENSIC DENTAL DATA SET

FOREWORD

(This Foreword does not form a part of ANSI/ADA Standard No. 1058 for Forensic Dental Data Set).

In 1992, there was interest in the standardization of clinical information systems related to electronic technology in the dental environment. After evaluating current informatics activities, a Task Group of the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee MD156 (ASC MD156) was created by the ADA to initiate the development of technical reports, guidelines, and standards on electronic technologies used in dental practice. In 1999, the ADA established the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI). The ADA SCDI is currently the group that reviews and approves proposed American National Standards (ANSI approved) and technical reports developed by the standards committee's working groups. The ADA became an ANSI accredited standards organization in 2000.

The scope of the ADA SCDI is:

“To promote patient care and oral health through the application of information technology to dentistry’s clinical and administrative operations; to develop standards, specifications, technical reports, and guidelines for: components of a computerized dental clinical workstation; electronic technologies used in dental practice; and interoperability standards for different software and hardware products which provide a seamless information exchange throughout all facets of healthcare.”

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION STANDARD NO. 1058 FOR FORENSIC DENTAL DATA SET

1 PREFACE

The establishment of a positive identification of unknown human remains or a living amnesiac by a Forensic Odontologist requires submission of supporting documentation from the dentist or dentists who treated the patient during life. This information (e.g., radiographs, charts, progress notes) may be submitted directly or through a clearinghouse. Although the vast majority of antemortem dental material and associated attachments are submitted on paper and on radiographic film, the ultimate goal is to create a standardized electronic format to transfer this data. Due to the varying methods of documentation and dental charting systems, and a lack of understanding of how a dental comparison for identification purposes is conducted, dentists frequently furnish insufficient supporting documentation. Submission of inadequate information due to a lack of standardization results in increased time required to establish the identification through dental means. It is also recognized that increased application of information technology standards and electronic transactions reduces the time required for data transfer and the costs associated with it, by providing a seamless information exchange. Errors and confusion regarding necessary data is to be avoided not only because of costs, but also in consideration of (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) HIPAA Privacy regulations concerning any request by law enforcement authorities for identification purposes.

2 BACKGROUND

Current odontological comparison software is based on the concept of restoration comparison. Utilizing each tooth as a field, comparison and/or elimination queries and an advance sorting algorithms creates a ranking of possible matches to aid the Forensic Odontologist in the final records comparison. Supporting biometric and familial, radiograph and visual information support the likelihood of a match. By standardizing the descriptors used to code this information the likelihood of identifying human remains or a living amnesiac based on the Forensic Odontologists data increases.

3 RATIONALE

A great deal of information is gathered during the course of dental evaluation and treatment. Forensic Odontologists charged with the task of identifying unknown human remains or a living amnesiac require comprehensive information in order to prove or disprove identification. While much of the information gathered by the dentist may not aid in claims adjudication, it is not possible to predict in advance what item or items in the dental record might be conclusive in postmortem identification. Although no standard exists to establish documentation requirements for the submission of antemortem dental information for identification, this standard is designed to fill that void.

4 SCOPE

The purpose of this standard is to develop uniform nomenclature for the description of forensic dental data and define a standardized set of uniform terms to convey this information. The goal of the standard is not to define the extent of information collected, only to be certain that common terms are used in order to aid in an identifying human remains or a living amnesiac.

5 ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION