



**ANN ESHENAUR SPOLARICH, RDH, PhD, FSCDH**

Ann Eshenaur Spolarich is an internationally recognized author and speaker on pharmacology and the care of medically complex patients. She has presented over 1,000 invited lectures and has over 125 professional publications. She is Professor, Course Director of Pharmacology, and Assistant Dean for Research at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, A.T. Still University (ATSU), where she teaches part-time in the Special Care Clinic. Ann is also a faculty member in the NYU Langone AEGD residency program at ATSU. Ann received the Education Award in 2021 from the Special Care Dentistry Association.

**COURSE TITLE:** What's New and What to Review in Clinical Pharmacology

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Ann Eshenaur Spolarich, RDH, PhD, FSCDH

**COURSE CREDITS:** 6 Hours

**COURSE DATE:** March 22, 2024

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** All dental professionals encounter patients with complex medical histories who take multiple medications, many of which have oral complications and drug interactions of significance to dentistry. The purpose of this course is to provide clinicians with practical guidance about the information needed to support decision-making with treating medicated, medically complex dental patients safely. Commonly prescribed medications, including their indications/contraindications and relevant systemic and oral side effects will be reviewed. Other topics include drug interactions of significance to dentistry, warnings and precautions associated with drugs used in dentistry, changes to the American Heart Association guidelines for antibiotic prophylaxis for the prevention of infective endocarditis, antibiotic stewardship, anticoagulant and antiplatelet medications, and popular drug trends in the United States.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this continuing education course, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss commonly prescribed medications taken by patients treated in the oral health care setting.
2. Discuss the oral side effects and other adverse events associated with commonly prescribed medications.
3. Identify common drug interactions of significance to dental professionals.
4. Identify and discuss medications used in dentistry that are included in the Beers criteria for safe prescribing to older adults.
5. Discuss changes to antibiotic prophylaxis guidelines according to the 2021 American Heart Association Scientific Statement for the prevention of viridans Streptococcal infective endocarditis.
6. Review proposed regimens for antibiotic prophylaxis, including appropriate drug selection.

7. Discuss the relationship of antibiotic stewardship to use of antibiotic prophylaxis for patients receiving dental care.
8. Identify indications for use of common antiplatelet and anticoagulant medications, and recommendations for managing dental patients who take these medications.
9. Discuss popular drug trends in the United States, including drugs for weight loss and biologic agents used to manage autoimmune conditions.
10. Identify modifications necessary to safely treat medically complex dental patients.

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