



## Health Education Council

### **NDA and NAATEN Collaborate on Tobacco Cessation Curriculum for Clinicians**

**August 2007**

#### ***The National Dental Association paves the way to implement the National African American Tobacco Education Network's Tobacco Cessation Curriculum for Clinicians***

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death. Approximately 45,000 African Americans die each year from smoking related deaths in the United States. Tobacco use is responsible for 87 percent of lung cancers. African American men are at least 50 percent more likely to develop lung cancer than White men. Tobacco use is a major contributing factor to periodontal disease and oral cancer. "Oral and pharyngeal cancers are diagnosed in over 30,000 Americans annually and 8,000 will die from these diseases. The five year survival rate for African Americans is 34 percent as compared to 56 percent for Whites, according to the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America.

Since 1995, the National Dental Association has supported the work of the National African American Tobacco Education Network (NAATEN) with a representative on their stakeholder body. Dr. Eldridge Dorsey served as the NDA representative on the the NAATEN Stakeholder body and more recently Dr. Ronald Blanchette assumed this role representing NDA's interest on the body. NAATEN, NDA and other stakeholder representatives from the National Black Nurses Association and National Medical Association worked together to create a curriculum, entitled: Tobacco Cessation for African Americans, a Training Curriculum for Clinicians. The curriculum is grounded in the evidence which supports that clinicians are powerful impetuses in helping patients kick the tobacco habit. It includes succinct instruction on integrating the Ask, Advise and Refer approach for patients seeking cessation support.

The National Dental Association Board of Trustees at their 94<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Atlanta on August 27, 2007, voted to strengthen collaboration with NAATEN by actively working together to seek support to integrate the tobacco cessation curriculum for member dentists. We hope to provide training opportunities on the curriculum materials and offer continuing education credit for dentists. The goal is to assist NDA members to integrate in their practice evidenced-based, simple brief tobacco cessation strategies.

NDA members play a significant and important role in helping to reduce tobacco use morbidity and mortality among Blacks and African Americans. NAATEN recognizes and applauds the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment in the fight to reduce tobacco use.

For more information on the curriculum or NAATEN, contact the Health Education Council at:

[www.healthedcouncil.org/naaten](http://www.healthedcouncil.org/naaten)

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