

PHIL 2203 ID Health Care Ethics

Fall 2023

Speaker: Prof. Susan Davide, Department of Dental Hygiene

Guest Lecture Topic: Oral Health Disparities

Dear Students,

I look forward to joining your Health Care Ethics class on November 27th. In effort to provide some background information and in preparation for the class, please read scenario and watch the video.

1. Consider highlighted last sentence in the paragraph:
 - In the US, where should you go and what should you do?

Weekend Mouth Pain

Imagine it's Saturday evening at 6 pm, and you find yourself in pain—a pain not from a hurt foot or shoulder, but a throbbing, radiating pain in your mouth that feels as if your head and ears are on fire. You cannot sleep or eat. Previously, the pain was dull and only bothered you when you ate something sweet or cold. But now, at 6 pm on a Saturday, you find yourself in extreme pain and unable to function. While you are employed, your minimum wage job does not provide dental insurance and you live in a state that does not provide comprehensive, adult dental benefits through Medicaid. Consider also that when you saw your physician 3 months ago for your check-up to renew your blood pressure prescription, you mentioned the tooth bothering you. It is likely that your physician did not examine your mouth or refer you to a dentist for care. You thought the tooth could wait! To make things worse, because of your lack of dental coverage and your inability to pay for the out-of-pocket expense of dental care in a private practice office, you do not have a dental home to call for an emergency appointment. The last time you saw a dentist was at a charity dental event in the local college's gymnasium several years ago. In the United States, **where should you go and what should you do?**

Scenario accessed from [Health Equity Needs Teeth | Journal of Ethics | American Medical Association \(ama-assn.org\)](#) and entire article available.

2. *Teeth*, by Mary Otto, 2016. Interview with author (20 mins) <https://vimeo.com/210309035>

Reflection:

- Why is there a difference/separation between medical and dental health in the US healthcare system?
- Do I have dental health benefits/insurance?