

## MONTHLY E-UPDATE

### January 2014

Each month we highlight a recent publication, recent study results, or other important information from the nation's network.

#### Information-seeking behaviors of dental practitioners in three practice-based research networks

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The February 2013 issue of *Journal of Dental Education* featured an article "Information-seeking behaviors of dental practitioners in three practice-based research networks". A survey was conducted to examine the self-reported information-seeking behaviors of dentists in three dental practice-based research networks (PBRNs). A total of 950 dentists (65 percent response rate) completed the survey. Dental journals and continuing dental education (CDE) sources used and their influence on practice guidance were assessed. PBRN participation level and years since dental degree were measured. Full-participant dentists reported reading the *Journal of the American Dental Association* and *General Dentistry* more frequently than did their reference counterparts. Printed journals were preferred by most dentists. A lower proportion of full participants obtained their CDE credits at dental meetings compared to partial participants.

Experienced dentists read other dental information sources more frequently than did less experienced dentists. Practitioners involved in a PBRN differed in their approaches to accessing information sources. Peer-reviewed sources were more frequently used by full participants and dentists with fifteen years of experience or more. Dental PBRNs potentially play a significant role in the dissemination of evidence-based information. This study found that specific educational sources might increase and disseminate knowledge among dentists.

Click [here](#) to read the PubMed abstract.