

## **“The Dental Professional’s Role in Supporting Patients with Substance Use Disorder”**

Presented by: Stephanie Botts, BS, RDH, CEAS

### **Description:**

According to recent studies, about 1 in 12 adults in America have an active substance use disorder. In addition, about 30% of adults misuse substances without showing any outward signs of a disorder. Research indicates that substances have a detrimental effect on one’s health, including oral health.

The dental professional can play a vital role in supporting patients with substance use disorder. Oftentimes dental providers are the health care professionals spending the most one-on-one time with patients. Therefore, they are able to screen and advise patients on this issue. With the right skills and confidence, dental professionals can serve as the first line of defense against risky substance use.

### **At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:**

- Understand substance use disorder as a treatable medical condition
- Understand opioid use disorder and alternative therapies to control pain
- Identify how a substance use disorder progresses
- Recognize the physical and psychological changes consistent with substance use disorder
- Communicate effectively with patients and team members about substance use disorder