

Melissa Sheets, DDS, DABDSM



How do you screen for sleep apnea?





In 2017, the ADA released a Policy Statement recognizing the vital role dentists play in managing sleep-related breathing disorders (SRBD). The statement encourages dentists to screen patients for SRBD and refer them for diagnosis when necessary.

Ways to Screen:

Intake

Consider adding these questions to your existing intake forms:

- Have you been told you snore?
- Do you wear a CPAP?
 Have you in the past?
 Or have you been told to get one?
- Have you had a sleep study? Or have you been told to get one?

Health History

Consider adding these questions to your health history forms:

- Heart disease
- Atrial fibrillation
- Type 2 diabetes
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Depression
- Anxiety

Clinically

Any of these can be a sign of sleep apnea:

- Retrognathic mandible
- Bruxism
- Tori
- Large tonsils
- TMJ pain
- High tongue level
- Scalloping

To Refer Patients: Visit us online at whywesnore.com/providers or fax us at: 877-811-8129