

FOCUS

for Ontario Dental Hygienists



Past, Present, Future

President's message

Professional development

2023 Annual General Meeting

Insurance column

Student column

Research corner

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Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association

July 2023
Volume 27 • Issue 3



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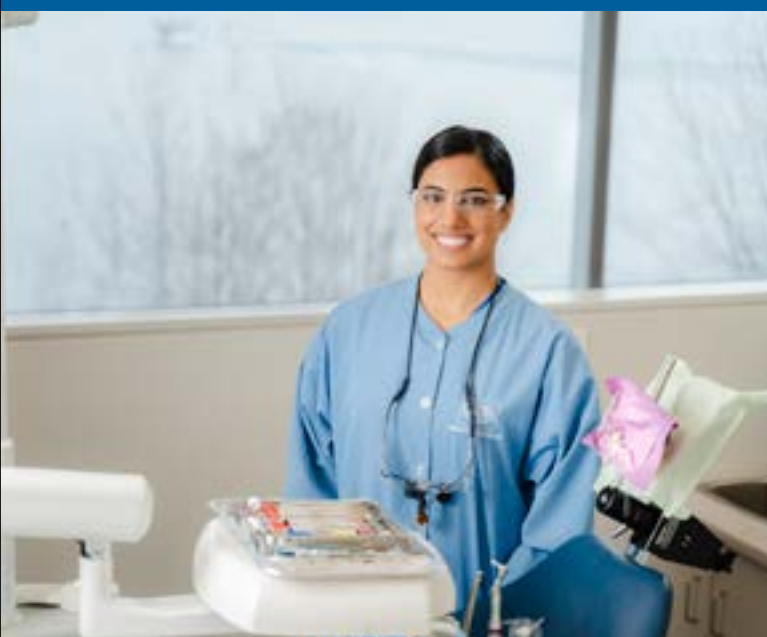


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rozina Bhimji, RRDH
ODHA President

Hello everyone and happy summer!

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering support of ODHA. Your continued dedication to our cause is truly invaluable.

I am thrilled to reaffirm my commitment to enhancing the impact and prominence of our provincial association. Having served on the Board of Directors since 2017, I have had the privilege of collaborating with exceptional colleagues across the province, including board members from the Ontario Dental Association, the Denturist Association of Ontario, and the Association of Dental Technologists of Ontario. As your president, I will remain steadfast in prioritizing key areas and advocating for our esteemed profession in Ontario.

Please allow me to introduce three

exceptional individuals who have joined our board: Manal Modi, Suzanne Hoodfar and Dezarae Aldridge-Earl. I eagerly anticipate their invaluable contributions to the board and our collective vision.

As we continue to expand our reach and influence throughout Ontario, I urge you to actively participate in our upcoming membership campaign, which will commence July 21 (by phone) to October 31. Your support in spreading the word among your fellow RDHs is crucial to ODHA's work in the province. Increasing membership amplifies our impact and advances our profession in Ontario. Together, we can create opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and continuous growth. Remember, your voice matters.

You may be pleasantly surprised to learn about the extensive benefits and services included in your membership. The ODHA

offers remarkable professional development opportunities and valuable savings on home and auto insurance, hotels, and more. By exploring our [website](#), engaging with the [dental hygiene newswire](#), and participating in [courses](#) and seminars exclusively available to members, you can expand your knowledge on the latest research, news, trends, and industry innovations.

ODHA is committed to consistently providing high-quality continuing education courses to meet our members' evolving needs and maintain our commitment to quality assurance. Our educational seminars provide an excellent platform for your professional growth. ODHA recently hosted an immensely successful Educators' Forum at Fanshawe College. The event centred around the crucial theme of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Engaging presentations covered strategies for identifying and minimizing bias in the classroom and dental hygiene education, as well as valuable resources for dental hygiene educators. It was an incredibly positive and enlightening event.

On June 10, ODHA joined forces with Dentsply Sirona, rdhu, and Crest+Oral-B to offer a powerful full day of professional development.

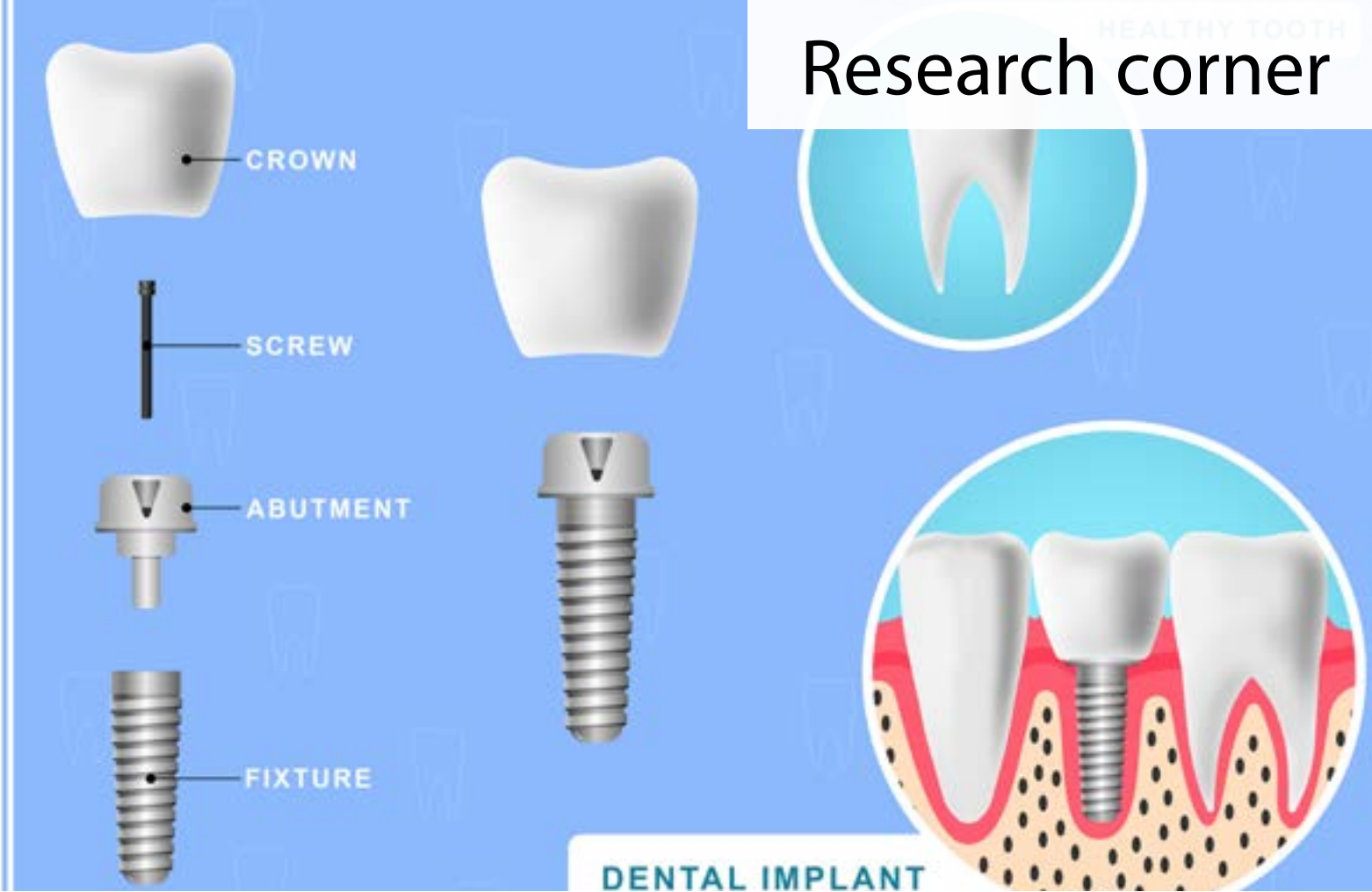
This [seminar](#) featured three highly experienced dental hygienists and skilled seminar leaders: Dani Botbyl, Kathleen Bokrossy, and Beth Ryerse. The hands-on workshops focused on utilizing the latest dental technology and techniques for clinical and technical continuing education. Our members immensely enjoyed this fantastic learning session.

I also would like to extend my earnest congratulations to the new graduates about to embark on an exciting journey in their profession. I strongly encourage you to consider the significant benefits of joining the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association, as it grants access to a wealth of resources and opportunities to facilitate your growth and success.

Lastly, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to lead ODHA and work alongside a team of exceptionally talented and dedicated board members. Together, we will strive for excellence in dental hygiene and diligently work towards a healthier future for all Ontarians.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

Rozina Bhimji



Kim Ivan, RDH, BIS (Hon) is an award-winning dental hygienist with over 38 years of dental hygiene and leadership experience. She is a long-time member and volunteer of ODHA serving in various capacities including former president. Currently, Kim is ODHA's Policy Advisor and Chair of the Research Advisory Board.

What every oral health practitioner should know about dental implants

Disclaimer: Research Corner is not intended to provide clinical advice nor should it be used as a replacement for professional dental or medical advice. Dental hygienists are encouraged to consult with CDHO practice advisors and refer to CDHO guidelines. Dental hygienists are responsible for the decisions they make and for the consequences associated with those decisions.

How to examine dental implants

Advances in implant dentistry have allowed implant treatment to become a popular and successful therapeutic option to replace missing teeth. Dental implants help to restore function, improve esthetics, and enhance quality of life. It is increasingly common for clinicians to see clients with implant-retained restorations.

[Barrak et al. \(2023\)](#) provide clinicians with a checklist to examine dental implants and recognize potential problems for early diagnosis. Areas to assess include client concerns, signs of inflammation, oral self-care, bleeding on gentle probing, implant occlusion, mobility, and contact points.

Why I like this article:

- Provides a systematic approach to assess implant health, including rationale and technical descriptions.
- Assists with early recognition of peri-implant disease, allowing for prompt interventions.

Looking for additional knowledge resources on dental implants?
Access Dental Hygiene Newswire for the research articles:

- [Clinical outcomes of dental implants in patients with and without a history of periodontitis](#)
- [The effect of inadequate access to peri-implant hygiene on marginal bone level](#)
- [Association between diabetes and dental implant complications](#)

Prevention and treatment of peri-implant diseases – The EFP S3 level clinical practice guideline

Peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis are highly prevalent, and their management is particularly challenging. Due to the high prevalence of peri-implant diseases, any client receiving dental implants should be considered at risk of developing some form of peri-implant disease.

The European Federation of Periodontology developed the [S3 level clinical practice guideline](#) for peri-implant disease prevention and treatment, using the highest level of methodology. These best practice interventions aim to preserve peri-implant tissue health to extend the longevity of complication-free dental implants.

Why this article is important:

- Provides evidence-based strategies to prevent and treat peri-implant diseases during dental implant planning, placement, and long-term follow-up.
- Emphasizes the importance of clients adhering to regular supportive peri-implant care and oral self-care to reduce the risk of peri-implant disease, highlighting dental hygienists' essential role in implant health.

To complement your dental implant knowledge, listen to *Conversations with Dr. Glogauer and Kim Ivan*:

- [Episode 84](#) on peri-implant diseases.
- [Episode 46](#) on the classification of peri-implant diseases and conditions.
- [Episode 18](#) on ceramic versus titanium implants.



Tips for recruiting clients for clinical requirements at school

By Parul Sharma, PhD; dental hygiene student at APLUS Institute

All dental hygiene students know there is a long list of clinical requirements to complete before graduation. It takes three or four appointments of about four hours each to complete the work on each client, not to mention all the paperwork involved. Some students are able to find clients from their school databases, and some are able to draw on family and friends to be patient and understanding clients who can commit to completing all these appointments.

For those who don't have family or friends who are local though, it can be very overwhelming to try to find strangers who are willing to act as our clients and to accept the time commitment involved. Although potential clients will benefit from the thorough oral assessment and debridement they will receive, the process can be overwhelming for them too, since the appointments require so much time, and it can be difficult to secure this much time off work. It can come as a surprise to these clients that a significant amount of time is dedicated to filling out paperwork, making a diagnosis and doing the appropriate planning. It can be the case that the first couple of appointments don't involve any scaling at all.

There's no doubt the service we provide is valuable, but there are definitely barriers to client recruitment. In my experience, I've had the most success with targeting the following groups:

- **Stay at home parents.** Try contacting local businesses offering parent and baby programming, play cafes or libraries.
- **New immigrants.** Google newcomer or settlement services in your area. These services can be run by a number of different organizations, including YMCAs or public health programs.

Student column

- **People who are unemployed.** Search for support organizations in your area who can post or pass on your information. These organizations could include food banks, employment services, shelters, and community Facebook groups (try looking for and joining groups that offer help and services in your neighbourhood or elsewhere).
- **Students** can have more flexibility in their schedules and understand the demands of school programs. Try connecting with students from other programs at your college, as well as other nearby colleges, if applicable, and high schools.
- **Places of worship** can also be great community hubs, with dedicated areas to post local services. You may want to consider contacting nearby mosques, temples, churches or other places of worship.

Sometimes, students report that people they've approached feel nervous and unsure whether the service they're offering is legitimate. In these cases, try:

- Referring these potential clients to [the list of student-led dental hygiene clinics](#) on the ODHA website. This list outlines the services provided at each clinic in Ontario, along with any applicable fees. Seeing these services listed on the website of a professional association may put the prospective clients' minds at ease.
- Purchasing printable business cards (from Staples or similar store) and customizing them with your school information, your name, Dental Hygiene Student title and your contact information. This gives the prospective client a point of contact for you, and lends a professional feel to your interaction.



Insurance for the entry to practice membership

Calling all recent graduates! ODHA is here to ensure your transition from student to working registered dental hygienist is a smooth, easy and more affordable one. Did you know as a recent graduate, ODHA does not require you to pay a full-priced fee for your first year of membership? If you have graduated, the entry to practice membership will give you access to your professional liability insurance as well as all of ODHA's member benefits, resources and professional development, all for 50% off the regular membership fee - Purchase your entry to practice membership for **only \$122.50**.



ODHA's membership renewal period begins on August 1, 2023, and early bird renewal opens by phone only on July 21, 2023, at which point you are welcome to purchase your entry to practice membership. In order for your membership to be considered part of the 2023-2024 membership year, please do not purchase it before the early bird or official renewal periods. You will receive email communications from ODHA, inviting you to purchase your membership at the appropriate time.

A note about insurance: If you are currently a student member with the ODHA, you are already covered under our group insurance plan, and have access to professional liability insurance right now until December 2023. Be sure to purchase your entry to practice membership to secure insurance coverage for 2024. If you are not a student member, this means you do not currently have any insurance coverage through ODHA. You will need insurance coverage to apply for registration with the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) and to begin working. Please give us a call at 1-800-315-ODHA (6342) to discuss how we can help you get insurance coverage for the remainder of 2023.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Free audiocasts for ODHA members



Join Dr. Michael Glogauer, DDS, PhD, Dip. Perio, and Kim Ivan, RDH, BIS (Hon) biweekly for new [audiocast episodes](#) including evidence-based information covering a wide-range of important topics applicable to oral health professionals.

There are 24 new audiocast episodes presented by Dr. Michael Glogauer and Kim Ivan each year, representing over 14 hours of professional development. For additional layered

learning, there are 24 keynotes and more than 841 additional resources included for quality assurance learning goals. Plus, over 112 client resources to share in practice.

Conversations with Dr. Glogauer and Kim Ivan is a free audiocast for ODHA members only. During our 2023-2024 membership campaign from July to October, non-members may have an excellent opportunity to try out the following [episodes with their keynotes and resources](#).

[Episode 54](#) – Botulinum Toxin use in Dentistry

[Episode 85](#) – Artificial Intelligence in Oral Healthcare

[Episode 88](#) – Relationship Between Mental Health and Oral Health

Great open-access resource for oral health professionals



ODHA's [Dental Hygiene Newswire](#) is a mobile-friendly, open access resource for all Ontario dental hygienists, dental hygiene students and other oral health professionals in Canada. It contains the latest research, updates and news on various topics such as oral health,

mental health, diseases, addictions, wellness, etc., which can be used toward your quality assurance learning goals. It is updated 3-4 times a month with new research articles or ODHA news.

Professional development event

To cater to the professional development needs of ODHA members, we collaborated with Dentsply Sirona, Crest+Oral-B, and rdhu to provide a comprehensive full-day PD seminar on June 10. Watch the [video](#) and catch a glimpse of the seminar highlights.



odha awards

Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association

ODHA has an [Awards and Recognition program](#) to recognize the outstanding contribution of its members to the Association, the dental hygiene profession and the community. The 2023 ODHA award recipients include:

Distinguished Service Award

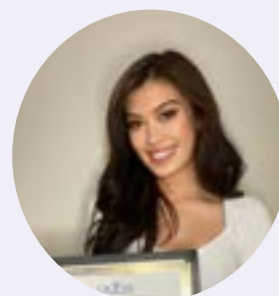


Beth Parks, RDH



Jody Allen, RDH

Student Award for Excellence in Advocacy



Hannah Lam

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MALPRACTICE CLAIMS AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST

Malpractice is one word you dread hearing. Oral healthcare can be inherently risky. When you're practising for long hours, trying to work quickly and efficiently to see as many clients as possible in a limited amount of time, there's no telling what can happen. There are steps you can take to minimize the potential damage of a malpractice claim.

Top Malpractice Claims Against Dental Hygienists

Here are the five most common malpractice claim types made against dental hygienists - and how you can prevent them from happening:

Recordkeeping Errors

Clinicians are responsible for obtaining a complete medical history from their clients and keeping notes during appointments, including notable events, materials used, instructions given, and medications prescribed. Detailed, high-quality client charts aren't just necessary for safe and competent healthcare - they're also your best defence against a claim. Records alone can even stop an accusation from ever reaching the courts.

Failure to Detect Oral Disease

Dental hygienists are trained to identify abnormalities like cancer. If you're in a hurry, you might miss the signs, or forget to follow up. Early detection of oral disease is crucial, and proper screening won't just save you thousands of dollars in damages—it might even save someone's life.

Client Injury

Whether it's a burnt lip or lacerated tissue, you could accidentally injure a client. Even if you don't directly harm them, you're still liable for any oral infections or abscesses that develop because of health and safety violations. Depending on the injury or procedure, your client might not even realize it. Make sure the client gets medical attention if needed, and thoroughly document all the details!

Performing Outside the Legal Scope of Practice

This can include performing treatments beyond your level of competence and providing unnecessary treatments. Since dental hygiene regulations vary across Canada, if you're moving provinces, research what's legally allowed so you don't accidentally breach them.

Having an Intimate Relationship with Clients

Dental hygienists are strictly forbidden from treating individuals with whom they're having a sexual relationship unless they are legally considered a spouse or common law partner under the legislation. If found guilty, you'll automatically lose your certificate of registration for at least five years.

Professional Liability Insurance for Dental Hygienists - What's Covered?

No matter how careful you are, sometimes malpractice is unavoidable. But it's not unmanageable. When a single lawsuit has the power to devastate your finances and reputation, you'll need the expertise of a team that understands the unique threats you face as a dental hygienist.

That's why PROLINK—Canada's Insurance Connection has partnered with ODHA to offer a comprehensive, cost-effective professional liability insurance program exclusive to all association members. We'll cover you against allegations brought by a third party (i.e., a client) seeking damages resulting from a negligent or wrongful act, error, or omission within the dental hygiene scope of practice.

The best part of all—it's automatically included with your ODHA membership! For more information, visit prolink.insure/ODHA.

Am I Covered If I Go on Leave or Retire?

Professional liability insurance is a claims—made policy, which means the policy you have in place at the time an allegation is reported will respond—NOT the policy you had in place at the time you committed the alleged act. Keep in mind you can be served years later, long after the event giving rise to the claim has taken place. And if you don't have insurance when the claim is reported, you won't be covered for any care you provided prior to the cancellation of your policy.

How can this be avoided? Through an extended reporting period (ERP), also known as tail coverage. An ERP keeps your policy in force for a specified period of time following cancellation or non-renewal. With a continuous policy, you'll be covered whenever a claim is reported, even if you go on leave or retire.

The good news? Your ODHA policy automatically offers a free ERP of up to 12 months for members that are retiring or going on leave to help avoid in gaps in coverage. To learn more about your ERP options, connect with PROLINK at prolink.insure/ODHA.

The article is provided by PROLINK

Insurance column

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ODHA held its 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 26, 2023. A new ODHA President and a President-Elect were appointed. This past spring, board elections were held in regions B, E and F. Dezarae Aldridge-Earl, RRDH, was elected to represent region B, Manal Modi, RDH, was elected to represent region E, and Suzanne Hoodfar, RRDH, was elected to represent region F. The ODHA Board of Directors officially welcomed the three new members at the AGM. Click [here](#) to learn more about [2023-2024 ODHA Board of Directors](#). The financial auditor's report and new by-laws were approved at the meeting.



Rozina Bhimji, RRDH
President



Dawn Larmon, RRDH
President Elect



Dezarae Aldridge-Earl, RRDH
B – Halton-Peel, Simcoe County,
Muskoka



Manal Modi, RDH
E – Hamilton & Area, Niagara,
Penninsula, Waterloo-
Wellington



Suzanne Hoodfar, RRDH
F – Toronto area

2023-2024 Membership FABULOUS PERKS

Early Bird Daily Draw

Join or renew by phone only (July 21 – July 31) for a chance to win a [LM Sharp Diamond Sharpen-free 204S Sickle Scaler](#) (retail value: \$92). Donated by [Curion](#).



Daily Draws (August 1 – October 31)

For a chance to win 1 of 92 [Oral-B Genius X power toothbrushes](#) (retail value: \$200). Donated by [Crest+Oral-B](#).



Weekly Draws (August 1 – October 31)

For a chance to win 1 of 24 [Cordless Advanced water flossers](#) (retail value: \$132). Donated by [Waterpik](#).



Monthly Draws (August 1 – October 31)

For a chance to win one of the following:

- 1 of 6 [loupes](#) gift certificates (Aug: \$1000x2, Sept: \$500x2, Oct: \$500x2). Donated by [Orascoptic](#).
- 1 of 3 kits of [8-instruments](#), including Servo 8E Cassette. Each kit retail value of up to \$631. Donated by [Curion](#).



Free Membership Draw (August 1 – October 31)

Join or renew your membership for a chance to win 1 of 5 FREE [ODHA](#) 2023-2024 memberships.



Professional Development

FREE, bi-weekly [audiocasts](#) including comprehensive resources to meet your professional development needs.

Focus July Issue Quiz Contest

To encourage our members to make the most of the valuable resources ODHA produces for you, we are hosting a quiz contest from July 22 to July 29. Participate and have a chance to win **50% off a membership**. Two lucky winners will be selected.



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for Ontario Dental Hygienists

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September	Aug 2	Sept 10	Sept 30
November	Oct 2	Nov 10	Nov 30

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