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Deborah E. Bender, Margaret Maier, and Irwin Stern. *Spanish for Dental Professionals: A Step by Step Book*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006. 85p.

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*Spanish for Dental Professionals* is another one of the volumes of the “Paso a Paso” Series intended to help dentists and all personnel related to the dental profession improve their communication skills with clients of Hispanic descent. As all the other books in the series, this one is divided into six lessons or steps that provide students with the opportunity to refresh some of the most important grammatical points of the Spanish language as well as raise their awareness of the problems that many immigrants encounter when they come to the United States. Each chapter is divided into eight parts.

In the first one, the student has to listen to a dialogue relating to the lesson and read a short paragraph in English accompanied by some questions. This reading serves not only as an introduction but resembles somewhat the perspectives that Hispanics have regarding dental health and the problems of accessing those services in another country like the United States. The other seven parts of the chapter focus on grammar review, vocabulary and new expressions, activities for fun, activities in the community, and finally a transcript of the dialogue that begins the lesson. Although some of the verbs and grammatical points seen in these chapters are common to other volumes of the series, the topics and vocabulary are not; they emphasize among other subjects health fairs and other resources to make Hispanic and other immigrants aware of the services that are offered by the community, the first visit to the dentist, the different tests done during the visit, care and prevention of dental diseases, dental insurance and payment plans, and other dental procedures.

The main purpose of the book is not to be a textbook for students of any level but to be a manual for professionals who need to sharpen their Spanish skills and be aware of the obstacles that their clients are facing when they come to their offices. In this regard, the book is designed to help different groups of people working in the field with the assistance of a facilitator who should be familiar enough with the subject and the language to provide guidance and clarification.

Among the most relevant features of the book is the section “Chat to Begin: Talking about the Issues,” which is an opportunity to speak Spanish at a very basic level, answering several questions regarding the dialogue, reading, and preliminary picture of the introduction. There is also a section dedicated to activities for fun where the student is invited to read a Latino newspaper, sing a song in Spanish, cook a dish with provided recipes, or visit a restaurant and try a new dish or drink. As in

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the other collections, all the exercises presented in the book come with a translation; this way, there is an opportunity for self-teaching. The book also contains a section requiring the student to work in the community with activities such as looking for websites that teach about oral hygiene in Spanish, listening to a music CD in Spanish and writing down words that they know, or reading a Spanish newspaper. Especially interesting are the appendices, where besides explaining the basics of Spanish pronunciation and sharing games like the immigrant experience game or flash cards for memorization, a bilingual Spanish Health History is included that dentists may provide to their patients to fill out before a visit.

In general, the book will help those professionals who need a refresher course in Spanish or who need ideas or support on how to improve their service to their Hispanic clients. On the other hand, it is important to keep in mind that the volume is not comprehensive. The best advice that the authors give is to have an open mind and flexibility in communication. ✱