Align Technology and OrthoClear end litigation

Align Technology Inc., the inventor of Invisalign, a technology for straightening teeth without wires or brackets, has signed a binding settlement term sheet with Ortho-Clear Inc., Ortho-Clear Holdings Inc., and Ortho-Clear Pakistan Pvt. Ltd. to end all pending litigation among the companies and execute a formal settlement agreement within fifteen days

OrthoClear is no longer accepting new patient cases for treatment. After Oct. 12 or the closing of the formal settlement agreement, whichever comes first, OrthoClear will abide by an International Trade Commission exclusion order prohibiting the importation of OrthoClear aligners into the U.S. OrthoClear will also assign and transfer to Align all intellectual property rights pertaining to the correction of malocclusion.

In addition, OrthoClear executives Zia Chishti, Charlie Wen, Peter Riepenhausen and Christopher Kawaja will sign 5-year, global non-compete agreements for removable aligner therapy products and the related software market. OrthoClear employees Joe Breeland and Jeff Tunnell will sign 5-year U.S. non-compete agreements prohibiting their personal participation in the removable aligner therapy product and related software market.

Align will make Invisalign treatment available to OrthoClear patients in the U.S., Canada and Hong Kong at no charge from Align. The parties will dismiss all pending litigation against each other and release all related claims. Align will make a one-time cash payment of \$10 million to OrthoClear Holdings Inc.

"This resolution achieves all of Align's litigation objectives and allows us to fully focus the company's energies and resources on providing innovative products and excellent service to Invisalign customers," says Thomas M. Prescott, Align's president and CEO. "We are particularly committed to helping OrthoClear patients and their doctors minimize disruptions in their treatment by getting started with Invisalign."

Align will pay OrthoClear an additional \$10 million if, at or prior to the closing of the formal settlement agreement, OrthoClear obtains requisite approval from its shareholders to discontinue all design, manufacture, marketing and sales of removable dental aligners throughout the world. If at the closing, OrthoClear does not have the requisite shareholder approval, Align will place \$10 million in escrow for 30 days. If OrthoClear obtains and certifies the requisite shareholder approval on or before the 30th day, the escrowed amount and accrued interest will be released to Ortho-Clear. If OrthoClear does not certify that it has shareholder approval by the 30th day, all escrowed funds will be returned to Align and Align shall have no further payment obligation.

The settlement is the result of a conference mandated and supervised by an administrative law judge as part of pre-trial proceedings in the ITC action against Ortho-Clear. There has been no finding of wrongdoing by any party or by Joe Breeland, Zia Chishti, Christopher Kawaja, Ross Miller, Peter Riepenhausen, Jeff Tunnell or Charlie Wen.

Align Technology manufactures and markets Invisalign, a technology for treating malocclusion, or the misalignment of teeth. Invisalign corrects malocclusion using a series of clear, nearly invisible, removable appliances that move teeth to a desired final position. Because it does not rely on the use of metal or ceramic brackets and wires, Invisalign reduces the aesthetic and other limitations associated with braces. Align Technology was founded in March 1997 and received FDA clearance to market Invisalign in 1998.

Smile Reminder announces integration with MacDent Pro

LINDON, UTAH—Smile Reminder, the pioneer in mobile practice-to-patient communications, announced availability of full integration with MacDent Pro practice management software, enabling practices using Macintosh systems to utilize its market-leading patient messaging suite.

Smile Reminder has been providing progressive communication tools for dentists since 2000. The service allows practices to send personalized, real-time messages to patients' email, cell phones (text messages), personal digital assistants (i.e. Blackberries, Treos, Palm Pilots), and any other digital device. It covers all types of messages including confirmations, last-minute reminders, pre-med reminders, immediate notification of available appointment times, newsletters, post-appointment surveys, educational and promotional messages, and more.

This MacDent Pro integration is the first Macintosh-supported service from Smile Reminder. The service is currently integrated with more than 50 different practice management software packages and is among the most compatible software tools in the industry.





QuickStart certification for iBraces now available

DALLAS—Lingualcare Inc., the Dallas-based provider of customized invisible braces called iBraces™ announced that it is launching a new QuickStart certification course for dental professionals who want to learn the iBraces technique. iBraces are the only 100 percent customized, invisible braces for orthodontic treatment. The QuickStart Certification course is free to orthodontists and dentists between now and Dec. 31.

"Many orthodontists and dentists want to learn the iBraces technique and would like to add it to their practices, but because of their busy schedules find it difficult to attend traditional classroom training courses," said Lea Nesbit, founder and chief executive officer at Lingualcare. "By putting our iBraces Quick-Start Certification online doctors can learn about the technique from the comfort of their offices and homes when it is convenient for them."

The iBraces QuickStart Certification course was designed to give orthodontic practitioners an overview of key principles of the iBraces technique, clinical procedures and treatment strategies. QuickStart consists of two modules, both of which are available online at www.ibracestraining.com and are free to those who register and complete the course between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31.

In addition to QuickStart Certification, Lingualcare offers in-office training, classroom training and provides doctors with a comprehensive set of clinical resource materials to ensure they are successful with the technique.

iBraces are the newest technology for invisible orthodontic treatment. They are 100 percent customized for each patient and placed on the back of the teeth so they are "invisible" from the outside. The customization ensures optimal patient comfort and treatment efficiency. iBraces have each patient's unique prescription built into the braces to deliver individualized clinical results. To date more than 8,000 patients worldwide have been treated with iBraces.

Lingualcare® was founded in 2002 with the singular goal of advancing orthodontic treatment by developing products that are patient-friendly and offer real value to orthodontic specialists. Lingualcare's patented iBraces™ are invisible, intelligent, individualized braces made using advanced laboratory procedures and proprietary technology. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, Lingualcare serves orthodontic specialists and their clients throughout North and South America. Visit www.ibraces.com to learn more. □