

Rule Changes Affecting Dental Hygienists

Rule changes that became effective on December 26, 2007, that affect dental hygienists by adding local anesthesia certification for dental hygienists and creating the requirements for the courses are as follows:

- Creates Administration of Local Anesthesia Certification for dental hygienists in Rule 0460-3-.12.
 - Adds a fee for certification for administration of local anesthesia of \$50.00.
 - Requires the administration of local anesthesia to be under direct supervision of a licensed dentist who has examined the patient before prescribing the procedures to be performed.
 - The dentist must be physically present in the office when the local anesthesia is administered; and
 - The dentist designates the patient of record upon whom the procedures are to be performed; and
 - The dentist describes the procedures to be performed; and
 - The dentist examines the patient upon completion of the procedures.
 - Verification of successful completion of the course attesting that the course was taught to demonstrate clinical competency must be sent directly from the school to the Board Administrative Office. The qualifications for certification are outlined in the rule as follows:
 - Must be a graduate of an ADA accredited dental hygiene program which teaches administration of local anesthesia to clinical competency; or
 - Must have completed a board-approved certification course; or
 - Must have completed an equivalent course in another state. The course must be approved by the Board as equivalent and course provider must submit the curriculum, including the number of hours and injections required, and a letter attesting that the course was taught to clinical competency.
 - For dental hygienists who complete a Board-approved course in the administration of local anesthesia, a temporary permit will be issued pending verification of completion of an externship in the office of their employer dentist performing the required injections. The application for certification must be submitted and proof of completion of the course (except for externship) must be submitted for the temporary permit to be issued. After completion of the externship, the supervising dentist must submit the Certification of Successful Completion of the Injections Required for the Administration of Local Anesthesia Certification form that is available on the board's website.
 - The certification is only valid if the dental hygienist has a current license.
 - The renewal certificate with certification to administer local anesthesia must be prominently displayed in place of employment.
 - The date and time of administration, identity of individual administering, the type of anesthesia administered, the dosage/amount of anesthesia administered, the location/site of administration and any adverse reaction to the administration must be documented in the patient record.
- Course providers must apply for board approval of the course on administration of local anesthesia for currently licensed dental hygienists at least 30 days prior to a scheduled board meeting on forms provided by the board. The section of the rule that governs these courses is in Rule 0460-5-.02(5).
- ADA accredited dental hygiene programs that teach to the level of clinical competency are exempt from board approval if they are teaching to students in associate, bachelor, or master degree programs. ADA accredited dental hygiene programs for licensees who are not students in degree programs must obtain board approval.

- The course must be at least 32 hours in length and, of this, 24 hours must be didactic, and no less than 8 hours must be clinical.
 - The course syllabus must meet the requirements outlined in Rule 0460-5-.02(d)5. and must be approved by the Board.
 - The course must be taught by Tennessee licensed dentists who are faculty members at an accredited school of dentistry or dental hygiene or by Tennessee licensed hygienists with local anesthesia certification who are faculty members at an accredited school of dentistry or dental hygiene. Instructors must have experience teaching the administration of local anesthesia. Dental hygienist instructors must be the under direct supervision of a qualified instructor-dentist when teaching the certification course.
 - The course must be taught at an educational institution.
 - The clinical instructor-to-student ratio is 1:6 for the certification course.
 - A competency examination is required that covers the didactic section of the course before the clinical section begins.
 - A clinical competency examination is required and must include performing injections.
 - Students must pass both the didactic and clinical examinations developed and administered by the approved course. The student may retake the examination one time before they must retake the entire certification course.
- After completion of a board approved course or graduation from an ADA accredited dental hygiene program that taught to the level of clinical competency, a completion letter for each student must be submitted from the course director within 10 days of completion on a form provided by the board.
- Once the course completion form, application and fees are received, a temporary permit will be issued for completion of the externship. The temporary permit expires after 90 days. If the student completed an ADA accredited degree program or an equivalent course in another state, the certification will be added to the dental hygiene license without the requirement of an externship.
- No continuing education credit can be issued for attending the course unless the dental hygienist is already certified by the Board to administer local anesthesia.
- The requirement for dental hygienists to qualify for the restorative and prosthetic courses is two years continuous full-time employment within past three years. (Note: There is no application fee for restorative and/or prosthetic functions certification for dental hygienists.)

The amended rules are available on the Board's website under Rules and Regulations. All applications and forms are also available online.