

Non-Surgical Laser Therapy for Hygienists

Course outline, objectives, evaluation mechanism and curriculum vitae of the faculty member must be submitted to the Board and receive approval prior to the date of the scheduled course.

The program of education shall include a minimum of five and 1/2 (5.5) hours of didactic instruction and successful completion of a written examination by a score of at least 75%. Following successful completion of didactic instruction and exam, clinical competence will be assessed through (non-virtual) hands-on training

Objectives for the didactic instruction must include:

1. Review of patient's medical history to determine any contraindications
2. Review of infection control, standard precautions, and transfer of diseases
3. Periodontal tissues, dental anatomy, and nomenclature
4. Rationale for performing Non-surgical Periodontal Laser therapy
5. Beneficial and adverse effects of Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy
6. Soft Tissue vs Hard Tissue Lasers
7. Laser Physics
8. Laser Safety for patients and staff
9. Patient Management
10. Proper Technique for approved use of Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy including laser bacterial reduction, laser assisted periodontal therapy, photobiomodulation, and treatment of herpetic lesions/aphthous ulcers
11. Proper Coding Protocol
12. Procedures to follow in case of medical emergencies
13. Dental ethics, jurisprudence and legal understanding of procedures allowed by each dental team member.

Clinical competency will be assessed by demonstrating proficiency in approved procedures in 2.5 hours of hands-on training.

OUT OF STATE HYGIENISTS WITH NON-SURGICAL LASER THERAPY CERTIFICATIONS - If the applicant was permitted or certified in non-surgical laser therapy in a different state, other than West Virginia, further coursework is not required. In lieu of a course, verification of the applicant's non-surgical laser therapy certificate or permit in the other state is required.

The licensed dentist assigning expanded duties to a dental hygienist is solely responsible for evaluating the dental hygienist to determine that he or she is competent to handle assigned duties. No licensed dentist shall assign additional duties to a dental hygienist until he or she is assured that the dental hygienist is fully competent and completely qualified to perform the assigned expanded duty or duties for Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy.

After satisfying the Board's requirements, certification will be given, and a dental hygienist may provide Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy under the direct supervision of a dentist after delegated to do so.

Amended 1.23.2025