

**TITLE 5
LEGISLATIVE RULE
BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

**SERIES 15
BOARD OF DENTISTRY RULES FOR DENTAL RECOVERY NETWORKS**

§5-15-1. General.

- 1.1. Scope. -- This rule provides for the Dental Recovery Network.
- 1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §30-4-6.
- 1.3. Filing Date. – April 12, 2023
- 1.4. Effective Date. – April 15, 2023
- 1.5. Sunset Provision. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect on August 1, 2033.

§5-15-2. Definitions.

- 2.1. “Applicant” means a person applying to the Board for licensure as a dentist or dental hygienist.
- 2.2. “Committee” means the Board of Directors established to function as a supervisory and advisory body to the West Virginia Dental Recovery Network.
- 2.3. “Executive Director” means a person selected by the Committee to administer the WVDRN.
- 2.4. “Facility” means a residential or in-patient treatment hospital or institution, or partial hospital programming hospital or institution with a housing component, or an intensive outpatient programming hospital or institution, all of which have a specific program with expertise in treating healthcare professionals.
- 2.5. “Impairment” means mental illness, chemical dependency, physical illness, or any abnormal physical or mental condition of a dentist or dental hygienist which threatens a licensee or applicant or the safety of persons of whom are patients of the licensee.
- 2.6. “Investigation” means an effort to gather facts to form a conclusion as to whether impairment exists concerning a licensee or applicant who has been reported to the WVDRN as impaired or suspected to be impaired.
- 2.7. “Licensee” means a licensed dentist, or licensed dental hygienist.
- 2.8. “West Virginia Dental Recovery Network (WVDRN)” means the program established by agreements between the impaired dentist and/or hygienist peer review organizations and the Board of Dentistry.
- 2.9. “Self-Report” means a licensee or applicant who has presented to the WVDRN for treatment of

impairment.

§5-15-3. Dental Recovery Network Agreements.

3.1. Dental Recovery Network Agreements with the Board require the following:

3.1.a. Upon receiving information about possible impairment of a licensee or applicant from a person, the Executive Director shall contact the licensee or applicant to verify the information.

3.1.b. If it is determined there is sufficient reason for action, such as behavioral signs, documented evidence of impairment, and/or drug abuse or diversion, the Executive Director shall encourage the licensee or applicant to present himself or herself to a WVDRN approved evaluator's office within seven days of initial contact for a complete substance abuse assessment.

3.1.b.1. If the licensee or applicant resists coming in for an assessment, the Executive Director shall pursue one repeat contact.

3.1.b.2. After two unsuccessful interventions within a period not to exceed 14 days, the Executive Director shall inform the licensee or applicant of the WVDRN's intent to close the file and disclose all evidence of impairment allowed by law to the Board.

3.1.c. The evaluator shall conduct an in-person substance abuse evaluation to include among other things, a psychoactive substance use history, administration of a Substance Abuse Subtle Screening inventory (SASSI) or other diagnostic tool the evaluator deems necessary, and urinalysis utilizing a minimum of a 14-panel screen and Ethyl Glucuronide Test (ETG).

3.1.d. If a diagnosis of substance abuse or dependence as per the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association is made, the Executive Director shall arrange for further evaluation and treatment of the licensee or applicant to be conducted at a facility or by an individual approved by the WVDRN. If there is insufficient evidence to warrant a diagnosis of substance abuse or dependence, the Executive Director shall place the file in an inactive status, and destroy the file after five years.

3.1.e. The Executive Director shall draw up a final agreement or contract between the licensee or applicant and the WVDRN for the licensee or applicant to enter into a treatment or other appropriate program. The Executive Director shall work with the treatment provider to determine the guidelines of treatment and aftercare, and shall consult with the primary care giver on a regular basis;

3.1.f. The Executive Director shall collect appropriate paper work, as specified in the contract, regarding treatment progress, group therapy participation, urine and blood analysis, discharge summaries, or any other treatment documentation, including recommendations to return to practice if applicable;

3.1.g. The Executive Director shall assist the licensee or applicant in transition into the workplace by providing information if requested to the supervisors and co-workers regarding chemical dependency, relapse, and diversion; and

3.1.h. Upon the completion of treatment and rehabilitation, and the expiration of the recovery

contract, the network shall conclude involvement with the licensee or applicant.

§5-15-4. Due Process.

4.1. Any action taken pursuant to the WVDRN shall afford the licensee all due process rights enumerated in W. Va. Code §§29A-1-1 et. seq.

§5-15-5. Receipt and Use of Information of Suspected Impairment

5.1. Licensees, family members, and other persons may submit reports containing information concerning suspected impairment of a licensee or applicant to the WVDRN.

5.2. Upon receipt of information of a suspected impairment, the WVDRN shall initiate an investigation.

5.3. The WVDRN may conduct routine inquiries regarding suspected impairments.

5.4. The WVDRN may require a licensee or applicant suspected of impairment to submit to personal interviews before any person authorized by the WVDRN, including but not limited to evaluators or treatment centers.

§5-15-6. Intervention and Referral.

6.1. When, following an investigation, the impairment of a licensee or applicant is confirmed, the Executive Director shall cause an intervention to be conducted using specialized techniques designed to assist the licensee or applicant in acknowledging responsibility for dealing with the impairment. The Executive Director shall then refer the licensee or applicant to an appropriate treatment source acceptable to the program.

6.2. The WVDRN shall decide the methods and objectives of interventions on a case-by-case basis.

6.3. The WVDRN shall arrange and conduct interventions as soon as possible.

6.4. The WVDRN shall evaluate treatment sources before making case referrals for treatment.

6.5. The WVDRN shall record intervention outcomes including treatment contracts that are elements of an intervention.

§5-15-7. Monitoring Treatment.

7.1. The WVDRN shall monitor a treatment source receiving referrals from it as to the treatment source's ability to provide:

7.1.a. adequate medical and non-medical staffing, facilities, and experience with health professional clients;

7.1.b. appropriate treatment;

7.1.c. affordable treatment; and

7.1.d. appropriate post-treatment support.

§5-15-8. Monitoring Rehabilitation and Performance.

8.1. The WVDRN shall designate monitoring requirements for each licensee or applicant participating in the WVDRN. Licensees or applicants may be required to be tested regularly or randomly on demand of the WVDRN.

8.2. The WVDRN may require treatment sources to submit reports regarding a licensee's or applicant's rehabilitation and performance to the WVDRN.

8.3. The WVDRN may require impaired licensees or applicants to submit to periodic personal interviews before any person authorized by the WVDRN.

8.4. The WVDRN shall maintain appropriate case records regarding each licensee or applicant that is a participant.

§5-15-9. Monitoring Post-Treatment Support.

9.1. Post-treatment support may include family counseling, advocacy and other services and programs considered appropriate to the licensee's or applicant's recovery.

9.2. The WVDRN shall monitor the post-treatment support of treatment sources on an ongoing basis.

9.3. The WVDRN's own post-treatment support shall be monitored by the WVDRN on an ongoing basis.

§5-15-10. Reports of Cases of Impairment to the Board.

10.1. A voluntary agreement entered into between the WVDRN and a licensee or applicant is not considered a disciplinary action or order by the Board, shall not be disclosed to the Board, and shall not be public information if:

10.1.a. The voluntary agreement is the result of the licensee or applicant by a self-report or voluntarily participating in the WVDRN;

10.1.b. The Board has not received nor filed any written complaints regarding the licensee or applicant relating to an alcohol, chemical dependency or major mental illness affecting the care and treatment of patients; and

10.1.c. The licensee or applicant is in compliance with the voluntary treatment program and the conditions and procedures to monitor compliance.

10.2. If a licensee or applicant enters into a voluntary agreement with the WVDRN, and then fails to comply with or fulfill the terms of said agreement, the Executive Director shall report the noncompliance

to the Board within twenty-four hours, so the Board may determine whether to initiate disciplinary proceedings.

10.3. If the board has not instituted a disciplinary proceeding, any information received, maintained or developed by the WVDRN relating to the alcohol or chemical dependency impairment or mental impairment of a licensee or applicant and the voluntary agreement shall be confidential and not available for public information, discovery or court subpoena, nor for introduction into evidence in any medical professional liability action or other action for damages arising out of the provision of or failure to provide health care services.

10.4. In the event the WVDRN becomes aware that the licensee or applicant has diverted controlled substances to a person other than himself or herself, or the individual constitutes an immediate danger to the public or himself or herself, the WVDRN shall report this infraction to the Board. In this case, the licensee or applicant is not protected by the program's confidentiality provisions or from disciplinary action by the Board.

§5-15-11. Periodic Reporting of Statistical Information.

11.1. The WVDRN shall annually report to the Board comprehensive statistical reports concerning suspected impairments, impairments, self-referrals, post-treatment support and other significant demographic and substantive information collected through WVDRN operations. The WVDRN shall not disclose any personally identifiable information relating to any dentist or dental hygienist participating in a voluntary agreement as provided herein.

11.2. The WVDRN shall, on a quarterly basis, report on the status of licensees subject to monitoring by the WVDRN by Order of the Board.

§5-15-12. Confidentiality.

12.1. All information, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, or other documents furnished to or produced by the WVDRN, all communications to or from the WVDRN, and all proceedings, findings, and conclusions of the WVDRN, including those relating to intervention, treatment, or rehabilitation, that in any way pertain to or refer to a person participating in a dental recovery network are privileged and confidential.

12.2. All records and proceedings of the WVDRN that pertain or refer to a person participating in a dental recovery network shall be privileged and confidential, used by the program and its members only in the exercise of the proper function of the WVDRN, not be considered public records, and not be subject to court subpoena, discovery, or introduction as evidence in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings, except as provided in subsections 3.1.b.2. and 10.4. of this rule.

12.3. The WVDRN may only disclose the information relative to an impaired licensee or applicant if:

12.3.a. it is essential to disclose the information to a person or an organization needing the

information in order to address the intervention, treatment, or rehabilitation needs of the impaired licensee or applicant and release by the licensee or applicant has been executed;

12.3.b. the release is authorized in writing by the impaired licensee or applicant; or

12.3.c. the WVDRN is required to make a report to the board pursuant to subsection 10.4. of this rule; or

12.3.d. disclosure is mandated by court order.

§5-15-13. Fees.

13.1. The Board shall assess the following fees to be added to each licensure renewal application fee payable to the Board with any revenue generated by the assessment dedicated to the operation of the dental recovery network:

13.1.a. Dentist - \$10 with each annual renewal;

13.1.b. Dental Hygienist - \$5 with each annual renewal.

13.2. The DRN may assess costs to licensee or applicant participants for the administration, monitoring and costs of their treatment, as well as reimburse for random or regular drug testing.