

## **LOCAL ANESTHESIA PRIVILEGES FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN WEST VIRGINIA**

### **DEFINITIONS**

“Local Anesthesia” means the elimination of sensations, especially pain, in one part of the body by topical application or regional injection of drugs without causing the loss of consciousness.

“Approved course” means a course in which the Board has approved for the education and clinical training of licensed dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia.

“Board” means the West Virginia Board of Dentistry

“Clock hour” means 50 to 60 minutes of instruction

“Dental Hygienist” means a person licensed by the Board who provides preventative oral health care services to patients in the dental office: Provided, That no occupational title other than dental hygienist may be used to describe this auxiliary.

“Dentist” means an individual licensed by the Board to practice dentistry

### **LOCAL ANESTHESIA PRIVILEGES FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

- A. After satisfying the Board’s requirements to administer local anesthesia, a dental hygienist may administer infiltration and block anesthesia under the direct supervision of a dentist and after delegated to do so.
  
- B. Competence to administer local anesthesia must be demonstrated by successfully completing a course consisting of at least:
  - 1) 12 hours of didactic instruction,
  - 2) 15 hours of clinical application, and/or
  - 3) an equivalent local anesthesia curriculum as taught by dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The course content must include, but not be limited to:
    - 1. Indications and contraindications for the use of local anesthetic agents
    - 2. Medical history evaluation procedures
    - 3. Head and neck anatomy
    - 4. Theory of pain control
    - 5. Review of cardiovascular and respiratory systems
    - 6. Pharmacological action of anesthetics and vasoconstrictors
    - 7. Psychological aspects of pain control
    - 8. Selection of pain control modalities
    - 9. Complications and management of local anesthetic emergencies
    - 10. Systemic complications
    - 11. Proper infection control techniques
    - 12. Technique of administration of maxillary and mandibular injections
    - 13. Laboratory and clinical practice
    - 14. Record keeping
    - 15. Medico/legal aspects of local anesthesia

The course must also include, but not limited to:  
Competency evaluations for each of the areas below:

1. Inferior alveolar/lingual nerve block
  2. Mental nerve block
  3. Long buccal nerve block; and
  4. Maxillary and Mandibular Infiltration
- C. The course must be taught:
1. By a dental or dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association on site or other appropriate clinical setting.
  2. By the faculty of an accredited dental or dental hygiene institution who are trained in local anesthesia and actively involved in clinical instruction.
  3. With a faculty-student ratio maintained not in excess of 1 to 6 for clinical instruction.
  4. After a written request is submitted to the Board including all course content as specified herein.

All institutions with approved courses shall keep the Board informed prior to any changes in course objectives, and/or content at the time such changes occur.

The Board may, at any time deny or rescind approval of an approved course for failure to meet or continue to meet the criteria for approval of a course.

Courses offered pursuant to this rule are subject to unannounced audits by the Board. Any Board member or designee of the Board shall be provided full access to course materials or the classroom or clinic during instruction.

- D. Upon completion of the application process and within 12 months of coursework, the applicant must pass a written examination provided by the Council on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) or equivalent state or regional examination with a minimum score of seventy-five (75%).
- E. A dental hygienist who has been licensed and trained to administer local anesthesia in another state may qualify for local anesthesia administration by presenting written documentation of licensure and training to the Board, providing they meet the requirements set forth herein.
- F. Following administration of local anesthesia by a licensed dental hygienist the following information shall be documented in the patient record.
1. Date of administration
  2. Identity of individual administering the anesthetic
  3. Type of anesthesia administered
  4. Dosage/amount administered

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF A LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENIST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ANESTHESIA**

Dental hygienists must:

1. Submit an application to the Board for approval to administer local anesthesia.
2. Hold a current license to practice dental hygiene in the State of West Virginia
3. Submit proof of successful completion of a Board approved course and passage of a written examination with a score of 75%.

Applicants taking out-of-state courses must:

- a. Submit an application to the Board
  - b. Provide course syllabus, name and location of institution, date of course and certificate of completion of a minimum of a 27-hour course of their original course and latest refresher course taken. The course must meet or exceed the basic course requirements set forth by the Board for didactic and clinical instruction.
  - c. Take the clinical course outlined by the Board unless otherwise approved by the Board and
  - d. Take and pass the CDCA written examination or equivalent with a score of 75% and fulfill all other requirements stated herein.
4. Provide proof of current certification in health care provider CPR through the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. This is a pre-requisite to the anesthesia course and proof of passage must be presented to the course instructor before admittance into the class.

### **OUT OF STATE HYGIENISTS WITH LOCAL ANESTHESIA PRIVILEGES WRITTEN EXAM WAIVED**

If the applicant was licensed in local anesthesia in a different state, other than West Virginia, a written exam is not required. In lieu of a written test, verification of the applicant's local anesthesia permit in the other state is required.

#### **Denial of approval**

If the Board denies approval, the applicant shall be given an opportunity to a hearing before the Board and shall have the right to present evidence on his or her own behalf

#### **Expiration and renewal of privileges**

Permission to administer local anesthetic agents expires on the date the dental hygienist's license expires or is revoked or suspended.

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