

Dental Practice Act Update  
Fact Sheet for Dental Hygienists  
Provided by the Colorado Dental Hygienists' Association

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Abbreviated Highlights from APPROVED Rules  
Rules Approved 1/22/15

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Limited Prescriptive Authority for Dental Hygienists (Rule XIII)

- A dental hygienist without supervision of a dentist may prescribe, administer, and dispense fluoride, fluoride varnish, antimicrobial solutions for mouth rinsing, and other nonsystemic antimicrobial agents
- Dental hygienist must do so in collaboration with a licensed dentist
- Dental hygienists will prescribe under their National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, not a DEA number
- All dental hygienists will need to obtain an NPI number from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Effective date 3/30/2015

Use of Lasers (Rule XXIV)

- Laser use by a dental hygienist can only be performed under indirect or direct supervision of a dentist, and must be **limited to pocket disinfection** at settings that **preclude hard and soft tissue removal**.
- Effective June 30, 2015, a licensee who is a first time laser user must successfully complete training that covers at a minimum laser physics, safety, and appropriate use.
- Training must be obtained through:
  - A Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited institution;
  - An American Dental Association (ADA) Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP) recognized course;
  - A Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition recognized course;
  - An Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE) recognized course; or
  - An American Medical Association (AMA) recognized course.
- Effective date 3/30/2015

Licensing Changes (Rule III)

- All applicants and licensees are required to have current Basic Life Support (BLS) for healthcare providers.
- If a dental hygienist has a long-term (more than 90 days) physical illness/ condition, or a debilitating mental illness/condition that renders the licensee unable to practice dentistry or dental hygiene with reasonable skill and safety to patients, the licensee shall notify the Board of the illness or condition within 30 days and submit, within 60 days, a letter from his/her treating medical or mental health provider describing the condition(s), the impact on ability to practice safely, and applicable limitations to practice.
- A licensee shall inform the Board of name or address change within 30 days of the change. The Board will not change the licensee's information without explicit written notification from the licensee. Notification by fax or email is acceptable.
- A licensed dental hygienist or an academic dentist is required to renew his or her license every 2 years and submit the applicable fee. This includes renewing to an active, inactive, or retired status.
- Military Spouses:
  - A person need not obtain authority to practice dental hygiene during the person's first year of residence in Colorado if:
  - The person is a military spouse, as defined in section 12-71-103(3), C.R.S., who is authorized to practice that occupation or profession in another state;
  - Other than the person's lack of licensure, registration, or certification in Colorado, there is no basis to disqualify the person under Title 12 of the Colorado Revised Statutes; and
  - The person consents as a condition of practicing dentistry or dental hygiene in Colorado, to be subject to the jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the Board.

- To continue practicing dentistry or dental hygiene in Colorado after the person's first year of residence, the person must apply for licensure in accordance with all licensing laws and requirements in effect at the time of the application, including, but not limited to, the Dental Practice Law, this Board Rule III, and current clinical competency requirements.
- Effective date 3/30/2015

#### Local Anesthesia Permit (Rule XIV) - RULE HAS BEEN TABLED AND IS NOT APPROVED YET

- A dental hygienist may obtain a Local Anesthesia Permit and administer local anesthesia or a local anesthetic reversal agent under the indirect supervision of a dentist.
- A Local Anesthesia Permit will be issued once and will remain valid as long as the licensee maintains an active license to practice, except as otherwise provided in this Rule XIV.
- In order to initially apply for a Local Anesthesia Permit pursuant to this Rule XIV, an applicant **applying for their original license after July 1, 2015 must pay a fee** established by the Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations pursuant to section 24-34-105, C.R.S.
- Effective date 3/30/2015

#### Fining Updates (Rule XXIII)

- See full Dental Practice Act for fining procedures and amounts
- Effective date 3/30/2015

#### Mandatory Continuing Education (Rule III G)

- 30 hours of Board approved continuing education during the 2 years preceding the next renewal period. Continuing education hours may only be applied to the renewal period in which they were completed.
  - If a license is issued within 1 year of a renewal date, no continuing education will be required for that first renewal period. If a license is issued outside of 1 year of a renewal date, then 15 hours of Board approved continuing education will be required for that first renewal period.
- Accepted CE courses for dental hygienists are those sponsored or recognized by:
  - American Dental Association (ADA) Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP),
  - Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition,
  - Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE),
  - American Medical Association (AMA) Physician Recognition Award (PRA) and credit system as Category 1 Credit, or
  - Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited institutions.
  - The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) and its constituents and component societies, or
  - Local, state, regional, national, or international dental, dental hygiene, dental assisting, medical related professional organization, or study group that have a sound scientific basis, proven efficacy, and ensure public safety.
- At least 16 of the required 30 hours must be clinical or science based.
- At least 50% of the required 30 hours must be live and interactive.
- Current Basic Life Support (BLS) for healthcare providers is required and all licensees will receive a maximum of 2 hours continuing education credit per renewal cycle for completing.
- A presenter of a course may submit the course hours he or she presented, up to 6 total credits, towards his or her continuing education requirement. The course presented may only be counted once.
- Licensees may be subject to an audit to verify compliance at the conclusion of each renewal period and shall assist the Board in its audit by providing timely and complete responses to the Board's inquiries. Proof of hours will be requested on a random audit basis only.
- A licensee must maintain copies of all completed Board approved coursework, including any certificates of completion, for at least 2 renewal periods after the continuing education was completed. The records shall document the licensee's course attendance and participation, and shall include at a minimum course sponsor, title, date(s), hours, and the course verification of completion certificate or form.
- Effective date 3/01/2016 \*The first 30 hours would need to be completed between 3/1/2016 and 2/28/2018\*