Information for Dental Hygienists  
Becoming Licensed in Colorado

License Application
• Dental Hygienist - Original License by Examination or Endorsement (Apply Online)
  o Online Application Checklist
• You will need:
  o NDHBE (national written board exam) Official Scores
  o Clinical board exam scores
    ▪ NOTE: Colorado accepts ALL regional and state clinical board exams, so you should not have to retake board exams, except in rare circumstances where you have not practiced in several years, as described in the checklist above.
  o Official transcripts from an accredited dental hygiene program
• All licensing goes through the Colorado Dental Board and the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). See the contact information below if you have questions about your license application.
• Upon becoming licensed, you are required to verify that you have:
  o “Obtained or will obtain prior to practicing as a licensed dental hygienist in this state professional liability insurance in the amount of not less than $50,000 per claim and an aggregate liability for all claims during a calendar year of not less than $300,000, or is covered under a financial responsibility exemption listed in Rule II.”
    ▪ Reference Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations – Rule III. E.
  o Current BLS for Healthcare Providers
• Colorado no longer has a jurisprudence exam, or any other state specific exams.
• All licensees must renew their licenses by the end of February in even years. The next renewal date is February 28, 2022.

Military Spouses – Temporary Licenses
• Colorado’s law which allowed military spouses to practice without a Colorado license for the first 12 months of residency ends on December 31, 2020
• Colorado will implement the new three-year temporary license for military spouses on January 1, 2021 and the license will be no cost.
• To apply:
  o Go to the DORA online licensing platform and create an account.
  o Once you are logged in, click “Apply for A New License”.
  o Expand the relevant professional area (e.g., “Dental Applications” for dentists and dental hygienists).
  o Select "start" next to the "Military Spouse" application for the specific profession for which you wish to apply (e.g., Military Spouse – Dental Hygienist).
• Visit the DORA military spouse website for more information. FAQ is also available through the DORA website.

Additional Permits/Certifications
• Local Anesthesia
  o In order to administer local anesthesia in Colorado, you MUST obtain a local anesthesia permit. Local anesthesia is NOT included in the dental hygiene license without this additional permit!
  o Once you obtain the local anesthesia permit, you do not need to renew it. The permit will remain valid as long as you maintain an active dental hygiene license in Colorado.
  o Dental Hygienist - Approval to Administer Local Anesthetics (Apply Online)
    ▪ Local Anesthesia Checklist
  o If you need to be trained in local anesthesia (because you are moving to Colorado from another state who did not teach local anesthesia, or that did not meet the Colorado training requirements), or because you have been told by DORA that you need to complete a “refresher course”, there are currently only two options at Community College of Denver and University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. The courses atCUSODM have been temporarily postponed due to COVID. To inquire about future dates, you can contact:
    ▪ Community College of Denver – paige.mcevoy@ccd.edu
    ▪ University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine - Heidi.utt@ucdenver.edu
  o Course dates will also be posted at www.codha.org/eventsce as they become available.
Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR)
- Many offices do not require this permit. More commonly, jobs in community/public health perform these procedures and the clinics are usually willing to send you to the course once you are hired into these programs.
- The only course for ITR is taught at the Community College of Denver. Due to the resources required to host the course, they have an interest form on their website for you to fill out if you are interested in taking the course. Once enough people sign up for the course, then they will schedule a date and set up registration.
- [Dental Hygienist - Approval to Place Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) (Apply Online)]
  - ITR Checklist

Lasers
- There is NOT an additional permit required to use lasers as a dental hygienist. However, you must take a course that meets the Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations requirements prior to using a laser. After completing the course, you need to maintain records of your course completion to verify that you have been appropriately trained.
- For course requirements, Reference [Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations] – Rule XXIV.

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)
- There is NOT an additional permit required to apply SDF as a dental hygienist. However, you must take a course that meets the Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations requirements prior to applying SDF. After completing the course, you need to maintain records of your course completion to verify that you have been appropriately trained.
- The Colorado Dental Board requires a 1 hour live and interactive course that is approved by ADA/CERP, AGD/PACE, AMA, or a CODA accredited institution.
  - Reference [Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations] – Rule XXVI.

Nitrous Oxide
- There is no permit or certification required to administer or monitor nitrous oxide in Colorado.
- The Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations state, “It is the responsibility of the supervising dentist to ensure that dental personnel who administer and/or monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation are appropriately trained.” Training can be done on the job, or through a CE course.
  - Reference [Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations] – Rule XIV. G.

CE Requirements
- Reference [Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations] – Rule III. G.
- Colorado CE requirements are also listed in the CODHA Fact Sheet
- You do not need to provide proof of any CE in order to obtain your Colorado license. You will have to complete your first CE requirements by the following renewal date.
  - If a license is issued within 1 year of a renewal date, no continuing education will be required for that first renewal period. (between 3/1/2021 and 2/28/2022)
  - 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. (between 3/1/20 and 2/28/2021)

Scope of Practice
- [Colorado Dental Practice Act]
- [Colorado Dental Board Rules and Regulations]
- CODHA Scope of Practice Info Sheet

Contacts/Resources
- [Colorado Dental Hygienists’ Association]
  - www.codha.org
  - info@codha.org
  - 720.316.6282
  - www.facebook.com/groups/codha
- [Colorado Dental Board/Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA)]
  - https://dpo.colorado.gov/Dental
  - dora_dentalboard@state.co.us
  - 303.894.7800