

Information for Dental Hygienists Becoming Licensed in Colorado

License Application

- [Dental Hygienist - Original License by Examination or Endorsement \(Apply Online\)](#)
 - [Online Application Checklist](#)
- You will need:
 - NDHBE (national written board exam) Official Scores
 - 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.
 - 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:
 - “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.
 - 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.

Additional Permits/Certifications

- Local Anesthesia
 - **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!**
 - 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.
 - [Dental Hygienist - Approval to Administer Local Anesthetics \(Apply Online\)](#)
 - [Local Anesthesia Checklist](#)
 - 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), the only local anesthesia course in Colorado is taught at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. The course is usually taught once or twice a year and registration fills up fast. You can email Heidi.utt@ucdenver.edu to get on the mailing list for future course dates. Course dates will also be posted at www.codha.org/eventsce.
- 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