

BLEACHING COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

- A. After satisfying the Board's requirements to apply bleaching agents, a dental hygienist may apply bleaching agents under the direct supervision of a dentist and after delegated to do so.
- B. Bleaching techniques will include chair-side light activated systems or any accelerated power bleaching procedure. This is not to be mistaken for laser bleaching or non-vital tooth whitening. The West Virginia Law currently permits dental hygienists to provide all aspects of take-home bleaching.

Competence to apply bleaching agents must be demonstrated by successfully completing a course consisting of at least:

- 1) 2 hours of didactic instruction which includes a video or demonstration of bleaching techniques and isolation.
- 2) The course content must include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. Indications and contraindications for applying bleaching agents
 - 2. Types of bleaching agents and how they work
 - 3. Types of light-activated systems available
 - 4. Safety Precautions
 - 5. Isolation Techniques, rubber dam or other
 - 6. Proper handling and application of bleaching agents
 - 7. Re-treatment options
 - 8. Proper use of light, including eye protection for Operator and Patient
 - 9. Advantages and disadvantages of a light-activated system
 - 10. Proper infection control techniques
 - 11. Post Whitening care instructions
 - 12. Documentation of bleaching procedure and shade selection
 - 13. Side Effects of bleaching agents and improper technique
 - 14. Evaluation of Results

- 3) Upon completion of the course, the applicant must pass a written examination with a minimum score of seventy-five (75%).

After successful completion of the Board Approved Course and written examination the applicant will receive a certificate from the Board allowing a licensed dental hygienist to apply bleaching agents with the use of a light activated whitening system and accelerated bleaching procedure.