

§5-1-10. Continuing education requirements.

10.1. Hours Required Biennially. Each licensed dentist shall complete biennially not less than thirty five (35) hours of continuing education. Each licensed dental hygienist shall complete biennially not less than twenty (20) hours of continuing education.

10.2. Approved Providers.

(a) The Continuing Education course must be offered by a Board approved provider.

(b) The Board approves any course or program sponsored by the following providers, or their constituent or component organizations for credit:

- (1) An accredited dental or dental hygiene school;
- (2) The American Dental Association;
- (3) A National Dental Association;
- (4) The American Dental Hygienists' Association;
- (5) The National Dental Hygiene Association;
- (6) The American Medical Association;
- (7) The American Hospital Association;
- (8) The American Red Cross;
- (9) The American Heart Association;
- (10) American Dental Association recognized specialty societies;
- (11) The Academy of General Dentistry;
- (12) The Veteran's Administration;
- (13) The United States Uniformed Services;
- (14) The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- (15) The W. Va. Department of Health and Human Resources;
- (16) The W. Va. Dental Association;
- (17) The W. Va. Dental Hygienists' Association;
- (18) Agencies of the United States Department of Justice; and
- (19) Study Clubs: "Study Club" means a group of at least five (5) dentists or

dental hygienists who do the following:

- (i) Organize for the purpose of scientific study;
- (ii) Operate under the direction of elected officers;
- (iii) Maintain written by-laws;
- (iv) Conduct regular meetings; and
- (v) Maintain written attendance records of all meetings.

(c) Providers not identified in subdivision (b) of this subsection may petition the Board for approval of continuing education that they offer. The Board may approve other sponsors of continuing education credits. The Board's approval expires after two consecutive years and must be renewed. The course or program must be designed to enhance the licensee's clinical knowledge and ability to treat dental patients.

(d) Courses or programs that are not approved for continuing education credit for license renewal include, but are not limited to, those on the subjects of estate planning, money management, personal finance, personal business matters, cultural subjects, personal health and recreation, politics, memory training, and speed reading.

(e) The board may excuse a licensee from all or any part of continuing education requirements due to unusual circumstance, emergency or special hardship.

10.3. Record Keeping, Reporting, & Monitoring:

(a) It is the responsibility of each dentist and dental hygienist to maintain accurate records relating to continuing education courses he or she has successfully completed.

(b) The records and information pertaining to each year shall be maintained for a period of six (6) years.

(c) A licensee shall report all continuing education courses on the form provided by the Board.

(d) The Board shall randomly audit the continuing education records maintained by each dentist and dental hygienist.

(1) A licensee who fails to successfully complete an audit of continuing education records may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include but is not limited to, an immediate cease and desist from practice notice, notice of formal hearing and/or monetary assessments or fines.

(e) Each dentist and dental hygienist shall submit to the Board by February 1, 1996, and every two years thereafter documentation of satisfactory completion of the required hours of continuing education during the previous two years.

10.4. Criteria.

(a) The Board shall not give continuing education credit for identical courses taken during the same continuing education reporting period.

(b) The Board shall give one hour of credit for each hour of attendance and an hour of attendance is defined as fifty (50) minutes.

(c) At least two (2) hours of continuing education shall be related to any one or combination of the following subjects during each continuing education reporting period :

- (1) infection control and/or occupational hazards;
- (2) oral effects of tobacco use; or
- (3) oral effects of substance abuse.

(d) A current certification for a comprehensive basic life support course for a health care provider that includes: resuscitation on an adult, child, and infant; two-person rescuer; barrier mask or bag for ventilation; foreign body airway obstruction; and automated external defibrillation. A CPR certificate shall be obtained through the American Heart Association health care provider course, the American Red Cross professional rescuer course, or an equivalent course. Certification shall be required each continuing education period, and such certification may be counted as continuing education credits.

(e) Courses or re-certifications completed on the Internet will not be accepted for basic life support courses unless the course includes a skills examination with a certified instructor.

(f) Continuing education hours or other education requirements required by board consent decrees or orders shall not be used to satisfy continuing education requirements for license renewal.

10.5. Continuing Education for Anesthesia certificate holders.

(a) Class 2 anesthesia certificate holders must complete at least 6 hours of continuing education credits and class 3 and class 4 anesthesia permit holders must complete 16 hours of credits in one or more of the following areas:

- (1) oral or nitrous oxide sedation;
- (2) conscious sedation;
- (3) general anesthesia;
- (4) physical evaluation;
- (5) medical emergencies;
- (6) monitors and use of monitoring equipment;
- (7) pharmacology;
- (8) advanced cardiac life support, (maximum of 8 hours credit);

(9) pediatric advanced life support (maximum of 8 hours credit); and

(10) advanced trauma life support (maximum of 8 hours credit).

(b) Courses or re-certifications completed on the Internet will not be accepted for basic life support courses unless the course includes a skills examination with a certified instructor.

Courses or re-certifications completed on the Internet will not be accepted for advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support or advanced trauma life support.

(c) These continuing education credits earned will count for part of the 35 hours required for each biennial period. This requirement is effective for the biennial period beginning February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2010.

10.6. Categories of Credit. The licensee may select areas of study within the following categories, not to exceed the maximum number of hours in each category.

(a) Educational and scientific courses - One hundred percent (100%) of the requirement may be obtained by Educational and scientific courses given by permanent or Board-approved biennial sponsors.

(b) Supervised self-instruction - Fifty percent (50%) of the requirement may be obtained in this category. Supervised self-instruction shall include a testing mechanism supplied by a permanent or Board approved biennial sponsor. The licensee shall complete a test and demonstrate a level of comprehension before the Board will award credit. Tests shall be graded by the sponsor and results returned to the licensee. Supervised self-instruction includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Graded audio/video courses;

(2) Graded correspondence courses; and

(3) Graded computer courses.

(c) Non-supervised self-instruction - A maximum of ten percent (10%) of the requirement may be obtained in the category. Non-supervised self-instruction includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Home study - journals and publications;

(2) Correspondence programs;

(3) Educational television;

(4) Audio/video programs;

(5) Scientific exhibits; and

(6) Study clubs other than biennial sponsors.

(d) Scientific papers, publications, and scientific presentations - A maximum of ten

percent of the requirement may be obtained in the category of papers, publications, and scientific presentations; A maximum of ten percent (10%) may also be obtained for original scientific papers authored by the licensee and published in a scientific professional journal, and the original presentation of papers, essays, or formal lectures to recognized groups of fellow professionals.

(e) Teaching and research appointments - A maximum of ten percent (10%) of the requirement may be obtained in this category. Licensees involved in teaching or research activities at an accredited dental or dental hygiene facility, dental assisting program, dental laboratory technology program, or a part time faculty or research appointment in such facility or program may also receive a maximum ten percent (10%) of the requirement.

(f) Original table clinics and scientific exhibits - A maximum of ten percent (10%) of the requirement may be obtained in the category of original table clinics and scientific exhibits.

(g) Course subjects on billing, office management, practice building, insurance reimbursement, communication skills, courses on how to use dental software, programs, and/or dental equipment are limited to a maximum of ten percent (10%) of the requirement whether individually or in any combination.

(h) The Board recognizes successful completion of the following written examinations, as may be administered by the following agencies, as satisfying the number of required hours of continuing education in the applicable reporting period:

(1) North East Regional Board's (NERB) Dental Hygiene Comprehensive Examination (for hygienists only);

(2) NERB's Diagnosis and Oral Radiology plus Comprehensive Treatment Planning Examinations;

(3) Academy of General Dentistry's Fellowship Examination;

(4) Examinations leading to recognized Specialty Boards' Diplomate status;

(5) National Board - All parts, successfully completed;

(6) Central Regional Dental Testing Agency's Written Examinations;

(7) Southern Regional Testing Agency's Written Examinations;

(8) Western Regional Examining Board's Written Examination; and

(9) any other written exam approved by the Board.

(h) Compliance: Compliance with this rule is required for all licensees seeking license renewal beginning February 1, 1994, and biennially thereafter.

10.7. Dental Committee and Indigent Care Participation.

(a) The Board recognizes those individuals that are serving, (as elected, or appointed members), on national, state and local dental, or dental hygiene boards, councils or committees and

allows one (1) hour of continuing education credit for every four (4) hours of meeting time to those individuals. This amount cannot exceed more than Five (5) hours of the total biennial requirement for each classification of licensee.

(b) Dentists may earn up to five (5) hours and Dental Hygienists may earn up to three (3) hours of continuing education credit requirements, per biennial period, for providing dental care to indigent patients. One-half (.5) hour credit will be allowed for every hour of documented treatment.

10.8. A licensee is exempt from continuing education requirements and is considered in compliance on the date of the end of the first continuing education reporting period following the licensee's initial licensure. Retired or disabled dentists or dental hygienists are not required to fulfill continuing education requirements.

(a) Continuing education will not be required for a dentist who is a graduate student in an approved dental specialty program, dental internship or residency program, or related dental or medical degree program offered by an approved organization, but must complete the healthcare provider/basic life support certification pursuant to 10.4.(d) of this section.

10.9. Penalties for Violation.

(a) The Board shall not renew the license of any licensee who fails to meet the requirements of this section.

(b) A licensee who has been found to have not fulfilled the continuing education requirements of the Board shall be required to pay a penalty as set by the Board's fee schedule 5CSR3 and has six (6) months in which to satisfy the requirements.

(c) A false statement on a renewal form constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result in disciplinary action against the licensee as set forth in W. Va. Code §30-4-20.