



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Policy Statement: Continuing Competency Requirements During the COVID-19 Response | Policy Number: BOD 21.1

Issuing Entity: Board of Denturists

Subject Matter: Addressing the impact COVID-19 response measures are having on the denturist profession with regard to meeting the continuing competency/education requirements

Effective Date: January 1, 2021

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
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*Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Board of Denturists*

Policy Statement

<i>Title:</i>	Continuing Competency Requirements During the COVID-19 Response	<i>Number: BOD 21.1</i>
<i>References:</i>	RCW 18.30.010 ; RCW 18.30.065 ; WAC 246-812-159 , WAC 246-12-210 Proclamations 20-05 , 20-14 , 20-24 , and 20-25	
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<i>Supersedes:</i>	May 14, 2020	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Vallan Charron, Chairperson Board of Denturists	

To address difficulties related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that impacts licensed denturists ability to meet the continuing education (CE) requirements in Washington State, and in accordance with [WAC 246-12-210](#), the Washington Board of Denturists (Board) will allow a licensed dentist to obtain their CE through online courses.

In response to the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and within the authority under [WAC 246-12-210](#) that allows the Board of Denturists (board) to grant an extension of CE requirements under what it determines are “extenuating circumstances”, the board has determined that denturists are unable to complete CE requirements in-person within the current time frame, and the board will extend the time frame to complete their annual CE credits and will accept online¹ courses as meeting the CE requirements in [WAC 246-812-159](#) through July 16, 2021.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance encourages the restriction of large gatherings, and in response organizations and entities have canceled large professional development events and conferences that include significant CE opportunities. Additionally, many denturists have either scaled back or ceased practicing during the COVID-19 pandemic to adhere to social distancing guidelines and help stem the spread of COVID-19. These measures are contributing to financial hardship and uncertainty. Without the ability to access expected routinely offered CE opportunities, and as financial uncertainty increases, denturists are without the ability and/or means to meet their CE obligations for renewal of their licenses.

¹ Online courses include those that are live, remote attended, or recorded.

The board will extend the time frame to complete annual CE credits and will accept online courses as meeting the CE requirements in [WAC 246-812-159](#) through July 16, 2021.

Other circumstances relating to completing CE and/or credentialing requirements beyond the individual licensee's control will be considered on a case-by-case basis for extension or waiver.

This policy will be in effect through July 16, 2021, or until the Governor-declared state of emergency issued under Proclamation 20-05 is rescinded, whichever is later. The policy will be re-evaluated at the July 16, 2021 board meeting to determine if an extension of the effective date is necessary.