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Hot Topic

Dental Anesthesia Rules

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is considering amendments to update general requirements for administering anesthetic agents for dental procedures. In addition to general updates, the commission is also considering amendments to address 24-hour on-call availability after a complex dental procedure, on-site inspections for all dentists holding moderate sedation or general anesthesia permits, and creation of a pediatric sedation endorsement.



The current rules have had several recent modifications (2017, 2016, and 2014) and a complete review is necessary. The last complete review was in 2008. Creating a pediatric sedation endorsement is necessary to provide safeguards for the unique sedation needs of pediatric patients. The intent are sedating children meet a reasonable standard for appropriate training in pediatric sedation and pediatric emergency protocols. Stakeholders have expressed

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Commission Members

- Julia Richman, D.D.S.,
Chairperson
- Aaron Stevens, D.M.D.,
Vice-Chairperson
- John R. Liu, D.D.S.
- Bree Kramer, EFDA
- Kunal Walia, D.D.S.
- Lyle McClellan, D.D.S.
- David Carsten, D.D.S.
- Ronald Marsh, D.D.S.
- Kathleen Elling, EFDA
- Brian Macall, D.D.S.
- Sonia Pal, D.M.D.
- Karla Briggs, Public Member
- Tiffany Bass, D.D.S.
- Abhishake Banda, D.M.D.,
MD
- Karen Clements, D.D.S.
- Marlynnne Fulton, Public
Member

Dental Hygiene Rule Update

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) is considering amendments to update the listing of allowable duties a dentist may delegate to a licensed dental hygienist under general supervision. The commission considered a rule request in July 2017 to allow dental hygienists to perform certain tasks under general supervision that are typically completed by dental assistants under close supervision. Close supervision requires the dentist to be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of a delegated task while general supervision does not.

A licensed dental hygienist has appropriate education and training to competently perform the tasks the rule amendments propose after a dentist has examined and

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Dentist Suicide Prevention Education

Find E2SHB 1612 [here](#)

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB)1612 (chapter 262, Laws of 2017) amended [RCW 43.70.442](#) directing the Dental Commission to adopt rules to establish a one-time continuing education (CE) and training requirement for dentists on suicide prevention education. In WAC 246-817-441, the dental commission adopted a three-hour requirement for suicide prevention education to include assessment of issues related to imminent harm by lethal means.

curriculum through the school of dentistry at the University of Washington before licensure, you do not need to repeat the education.

Education must be obtained from an approved organization listed on the Department of Health [website](#). Look for the list of approved organizations under the header:

Three-hour training for pharmacists and dentists (suicide screening, referral and imminent harm via lethal means).

Find current Dentist suicide prevention education rules at [WAC 246-817-441](#).

Suicide prevention education is required by the end of the first full CE reporting period after August 1, 2020, or during the first full CE reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later.



Dentists can choose from the three-hour trainings in this section or any of the six-hour trainings listed on the page.

Three hours of suicide prevention education obtained online meets the three-hour requirement

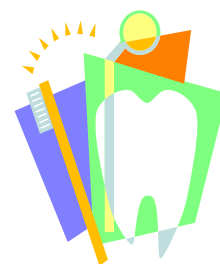
Education completed between July 23, 2017 and August 1, 2020 from an approved organization is acceptable for the one-time CE requirement. If you have completed suicide assessment, treatment, and management

under WAC 246-817-441. If you choose to use these online hours toward your regular dentist license 63-hour CE requirement, you may count only 1½ hour toward your regular dentist license 63-hour CE requirement under [WAC 246-817-440](#).

For a list of approved educational organizations, visit our [webpage](#).

Purpose Statement

It is the purpose of the commission established in [RCW 18.32.0351](#) to regulate the competency and quality of professional healthcare providers under its jurisdiction by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing qualifications for licensure, continuing education, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline.



[Access your dental chapter 246-817 WAC rules here.](#)

Dental Hygiene Rule Update

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diagnosed the patient, and provided has subsequent instructions to be performed without the dentist physically present in the office. Additionally, several tasks in the proposed rule amendments may provide more opportunities for teledentistry when a dentist is not required to be on site. This would allow a dentist and dental hygienist to provide dental care to patients unable to be physically in the dental office.

The proposed rule amendments add the following 17 tasks to WAC 246-817-550 Acts that may be performed by license dental hygienists under general supervision:

- Take intra-oral and extra-oral photographs.
- Give preoperative and postoperative instructions.
- Give fluoride treatments.
- Place and remove the rubber dam.
- Sterilize equipment and disinfect operatories.
- Place retraction cord.
- Take a facebow transfer for mounting study casts.
- Fabricate and deliver bleaching and fluoride trays.
- Fabricate, cement, and remove temporary crowns or temporary bridges.
- Place a temporary filling (as zinc oxide-eugenol (ZOE)) after diagnosis and examination by the dentist.
- Remove the excess cement after the dentist has placed a permanent or temporary inlay, crown, bridge or appliance, or around orthodontic bands.
- Pack and medicate extraction areas.
- Place periodontal packs.
- Remove periodontal packs or sutures.
- Select denture shade and mold.
- Place and remove orthodontic separators.
- Select and fit orthodontic bands, try in fixed or removable orthodontic appliances prior to the dentist cementing or checking the appliance.

A licensed dental hygienist may currently perform all the above tasks under close supervision. The proposed rule amendments would allow a licensed dental hygienist to perform these tasks under general supervision.



Access all
dentistry laws here.

[RCW 18.32](#)
[WAC 246-817](#)
[RCW 18.260](#)
[RCW 18.350](#)
[RCW 18.130](#)
[WAC 246-12](#)
[WAC 246-16](#)
[RCW 70.02](#)

Find more
information about
proposed rules on
our [webpage](#).

Dental Anesthesia Rules

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Proposed rule are available on our [Rules in Progress webpage](#).

concern with lack of 24-hour on-call availability after complex dental procedures. Current rule requires 24-hour on-call availability only when anesthesia is used; there are complex dental procedures that do not involve anesthesia. WAC 246-817-774 currently allows on-site inspections for general anesthesia permit holders. Clear standards for on-site inspections are necessary.

The commission is mandated under RCW 18.32.002 to regulate the competency and quality of dentists by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing consistent standards of practice. RCW 18.32.640 authorizes the commission to adopt rules governing the administration of sedation and general anesthesia by dentists.

The Dental Anesthesia Committee has been working with stakeholders on rule modifications since August 2017. The committee continues to modify areas including a pediatric sedation endorsement, on-site inspections, and plans to soon re-discuss 24-hour on-call availability. Many changes are only to provide clarity in sentence structure and consistency in the rules.

Please send comments regarding proposed rules to Jennifer Santiago at jennifer.santiago@doh.wa.gov.

- Significant proposed rules changes include:
- Pediatric defined as a child 12 years of age or younger;
- Required written emergency protocols and training wherever sedation is administered;
- Redefining training requirements for minimal sedation;
- Requirement for a pediatric sedation endorsement when providing moderate sedation to pediatric patients;
- Required on-site inspections for both moderate sedation with parenteral agents and general anesthesia permit holders; and
- Updating contract requirements when dentists have a non-dental anesthesia provider provide sedation in their dental facility.

Attend the next Dental Anesthesia Committee meeting on September 13, 2019.

Reader Input

The commission is looking for reader input.

If you want to read about something specific, [please let us know](#).



Meet the Educational Outreach Committee

The Educational Outreach Committee is a subcommittee of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission. The committee is made up of members from the Dental Quality Assurance Commission, Board of Denturists, and Dental Hygiene Examining Committee. The committee works to educate dental professionals and the public about what's happening in the dental arena. Below are a couple of the members of this committee.



Bree Kramer, EFDA

I've been in dentistry for 17 years. Serving on the commission has given me the opportunity to better understand all the intricacies of rulemaking, disciplinary work, and making changes in the laws. I've been married for 27 years and have two grown girls, and have two dogs. In my free time I enjoy hot yoga, golfing, fishing, hiking, kayaking, and being involved in community fun runs, basically anything to enjoy the outdoors.



Karla Briggs, Public Member

My name is Karla Briggs and I like warm hugs! I've been a science teacher, a mom, and now I work in property management. I joined the commission in 2018 as a public member to learn about dentistry and to serve my state. I spend my free time wrangling my two kids with my husband, watching movies, drinking coffee, reading books, and harassing my own dentist to join the commission (hi, Keavin!).

Answers From March 2019 Newsletter Quiz

Below are the answers to the continuing education quiz in the March 2019 newsletter. Look for the answers to this month's quiz in the November 2019 newsletter.

1. A
2. A
3. C
4. B



Prescribing Opioids - Toolkit

New opioid prescribing requirements are effective in Washington state. The goals are to increase public health and safety by reducing opioid abuse and misuse, while ensuring that practitioners continue to treat patients safely and appropriately for pain.

Toolkits are available to help make practitioners and patients aware of the new requirements. They include:

- [Access to the new rules](#)
- [Dentist practitioner handout](#)
- [Naloxone prescribing with opioid prescriptions handout](#)
- [Educational video explaining the new requirements](#)
- [Public and patient handouts](#) (meets patient notification requirement)

Read FAQs about opioid prescribing for healthcare providers [here](#).

Infamous or Famous

Westin A. Price: Dr. Price was a Canadian dentist whose practice and research focused on theories about the relationship between nutrition, dental health, and physical health. In the early 1900s, Dr. Price founded a research institute called the National Dental Association, which became the research section of the American Dental Association.



Dr. Price is known for his focus infection theory – the relationship between endodontic therapy, pulpless teeth and broader systemic disease. This theory resulted in many extractions of both tonsils and teeth. Focal infection theory fell out of favor in the 1930s and was pushed to the margins of dentistry by the 1950s.

For more information about renewing online, visit our [webpage](#).

Renew Your Credential Online

Dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, expanded function dental auxiliaries, and dental anesthesia assistants who are within 90 days of their license expiration date, are able to renew their active status licenses, registrations or certifications online.

To renew online, you must register with Secure Access Washington and sign-in to the Department of Health Online Services. Go to the [Secure Access Washington \(SAW\) website](#). Here is a link to [online renewal frequently asked questions](#).

If you're having problems with the Department of Health Online Services site, [contact our Customer Service Office by email](#) or phone at 360-236-4700.

Legal Actions

March 2019 — June 2019

The following are final actions taken by the commission Secretary of Health, or Board of Denturists . Notices of decision on applications, modifications to orders, terminations of orders, and stipulations to informal discipline are not listed. The actions below have been edited for clarity and brevity. You can view the actual orders on the [provider credential search webpage](#).

Dental Commission Legal Actions

Practitioner and County	Date	Order Type	Cause of Action	Commission Action
Palena, Wanda (dentist) Yakima County	3/8/2019	Final Order of Default	Failure to respond to statement of charges regarding continuing education credits due.	Indefinite suspension until documentation of completion of required continuing education submitted.
Richardson, Alesia (dental assistant) Cowlitz County	3/15/2019	Final Order of Default	Failure to respond to charges regarding forged narcotic prescriptions.	Suspension for at least one year.
Bial, John (dentist) Kitsap County	4/4/2019	Final Order	Substandard care resulting in injury to a patient; failed to keep appropriate records.	Reimbursement of \$9,000 to the commission; completion of continuing education.
Williams, Brizjette (dental assistant) King County	4/19/2019	Final Order of Default	Failed to notify employer of credential conditions or respond to statement of charges regarding credit card theft.	Suspension for at least five years.
Carlson, Sharon (dental assistant) King County	4/19/2019	Agreed Order	Failed to comply with substance abuse monitoring contract or pass jurisprudence exam.	Re-entry into substance abuse monitoring program (WRAMP); take and pass jurisprudence exam within six months.
Boyd, Yvonne (dental assistant) Clallam County	5/3/2019	Final Order of Default	Failed to comply with order to submit to a mental examination.	Indefinite suspension.

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Legal Actions March 2019 — June 2019

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Practitioner and County	Date	Order Type	Cause of Action	Commission Action
Panahpour, Alireza (dentist) King County	4/30/2019	Final Order	Substandard care resulting in permanent nerve damage to a patient.	Credential revoked for at least 60 months.
Buttar, Sukhminder (dentist) Kitsap County	4/19/2019	Agreed Order	Substandard care in a restoration procedure.	Fined \$2,500; \$6,133.97 reimbursement to the commission; refund treatment costs to patient; completion of continuing education.
Do, Liem Duy (dentist) Clark County	6/23/2019	Final Order	Substandard care in treatment planning and diagnosis and insufficient charting and dental records.	Suspension of 5 years, \$15,000 reimbursement and \$10,000 cost recovery to the commission; D-PREP skills assessment prior to reinstatement; minimum of 3 years probation upon reinstatement.
Chiang, Henry K. (dentist) Yakima County	3/1/2019	Agreed Order	Substandard care in treatment planning and diagnosis, and insufficient billing, charting and dental records.	Payment of \$5,000 fine and \$5,000 reimbursement to commission; completion of continuing education; take and pass jurisprudence exam.

Board of Denturists Legal Actions

Practitioner and County	Date	Order Type	Cause of Action	Board Action
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The Board of Denturists had no legal actions for March 2019—June 2019.

Earn Continuing Education Credit!

Continuing Education Quiz

The commission allows one hour of continuing education for reading this newsletter! To qualify, please take the quiz below. Keep the completed quiz with your other continuing education certificates of completion.

If you are audited, provide the quiz along with your other proof of continuing education and you will receive one hour of continuing education under WAC 246-817-440(4)(b). You are allowed 30 minutes for every hour of self-study continuing education. Completing this quiz will be counted as 30 minutes toward your continuing education requirements.

1. A licensed dentist must complete ___ hours of continuing education (CE) in suicide prevention education.
 - A. 3
 - B. 12
 - C. 8

2. The commission is proposing a pediatric patient is:
 - A. A patient under the age of 18.
 - B. A child 12 years of age or younger.
 - C. A patient over the age of 12.

3. Close supervision requires a dentist to be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of a delegated task.
 - A. True
 - B. False

4. The commission is proposing a dental hygienist may perform _____ under general supervision of a dentist?
 - A. Place restorations
 - B. Sterilize equipment and disinfect operatories
 - C. Administer nitrous oxide analgesia

Commission Staff Contact Information

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Customer Service
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www.doh.wa.gov

[Commission website](#)

Commission Meeting Dates

July 26, 2019
September 13, 2019
October 25, 2019
December 6, 2019
January 24, 2020
March 6, 2020
April 17, 2020
June 5, 2020
July 17, 2020
September 11, 2020
October 23, 2020
December 11, 2020

**Public Health - Always
Working for a Safer and
Healthier Washington.**