

## 270-X-4-.04 Mandatory Continuing Education For Dentists And Dental Hygienists.

### (1) NUMBER OF HOURS.

(a) Effective October 1, 2016, Dentists shall complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal; provided, however, that no more than one-half (1/2) of the hours can be completed or satisfied video tapes, journals, publications, internet courses,

correspondence courses or distance based education whether by video or audio format. It shall be the responsibility of each dentist to submit on an annual basis an affidavit or other form approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. The required hours must be completed in the twelve (12) month period beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the next year. The period shall begin on the date of the initial certification or on the date of any subsequent recertification. Dentists must maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the basic support level by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program; provided, however this requirement shall be satisfied only by completing an in-person training. During the two-year CPR certification term, a dentist may only apply four hours of CPR training to their annual requirement. Further, dentists must maintain current certification in infectious disease control as it relates to the dental office or to the practice of dentistry. During the four-year infectious disease control certification term, a dentist may only apply two hours of said training to

their annual requirement. Additionally, the combined number of hours of continuing education training in the course areas of insurance, governmental regulations, and tort liability and/or risk management shall not exceed a total of four (4) hours for the twelve (12) month period. Practice management courses shall not exceed a total of three (3) hours for the twelve (12) month period.

(b) Effective October 1, 2016, Dental Hygienists shall complete twelve (12) hours of continuing education every year as a condition of licensure renewal; provided, however, that no more than one-half (1/2) of the hours can be completed or satisfied by video tapes, journals, publications, internet courses, correspondence courses or distance based education whether by video or audio format. It shall be the responsibility of each dental hygienist to submit on an annual basis an affidavit or other form approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. The required hours must be completed in the twelve (12) month period beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the next year. The period shall begin on the date of the initial certification or on the date of any subsequent recertification. Dental hygienists must maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the basic support level by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or an equivalent program; provided, however this requirement shall be satisfied only by completing an in-person training. During the two-year CPR certification term, a dental hygienist may only apply four hours of CPR training to their annual requirement. Further, dental hygienists must maintain current certification in infectious disease control as it relates to the dental office or

to the practice of dentistry. During the four-year infectious disease control certification term, a dental hygienist may only apply two hours of said training to their annual requirement. Additionally, the combined number of hours of continuing education training in the course areas

of insurance, governmental regulations, and tort liability and/or risk management shall not exceed a total of four (4) hours for the twelve (12) month period. Practice management courses shall not exceed a total of three (3) hours for the twelve (12) month period.

(c) Dentists/dental hygienists will be allowed up to four (4) hours of credit for the twelve month period for pro bono charitable work performed at non-profit clinics located within the State of Alabama offering dental services. Any such work by a dental hygienist must be under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in the State of Alabama. One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be awarded for every four (4) hours of service.

(d) Licensees who have graduated or completed a dental residency in the year of their initial licensure shall only be required to accrue and prove compliance with required hours of continuing education through the end of the subsequent year following licensure. Thereafter said licensees shall comply with continuing education requirements set forth above. However, said licensees must be able to prove compliance with this rule regarding CPR and infectious disease control certifications.

## (2) RECORD KEEPING, REPORTING AND MONITORING.

(a) It is the responsibility of each dentist/dental hygienist to maintain and compile accurate records relating to all continuing education courses or activities they have attended and completed. Accurate records shall mean a certification or evidence of attendance at any “live” continuing education courses and copies of video tapes, journals, publications or correspondence courses. It shall be the responsibility of each dentist/dental hygienist to maintain the above described documentation and information pertaining to each year for a period of two (2) years and this information shall be submitted to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama within thirty (30) days after a request for the same by the Board.

(b) Each dentist/dental hygienist must submit by the first (1st) day of October of each year, evidence or documentation of satisfactory completion of the required hours of continuing education provided for in these rules. This information shall be submitted on an affidavit and/or other forms to be approved and provided by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama. Upon receipt of this information it shall be reviewed by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama and the dentist/dental hygienist shall then be notified that either:

1. They have fulfilled the requirements of these rules and their annual registration will be issued or
2. They will be notified there are deficiencies or non-compliance with these rules and their annual registration will not be issued until the non-compliance or deficiencies have been remedied in accordance with these rules to the satisfaction of the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama.

(c) Any dentist/dental hygienist who receives notification that their annual registration will not be issued because of non-compliance with these rules may appeal in writing to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama within Thirty (30) days from the date of the Board’s notification to them of their non-compliance. Upon the receipt of the written appeal, the Board may request

the submission of additional information or records or may require the dentist/dental hygienist to appear before the Board in connection with the appeal.

(3) AUDITING. The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama shall randomly audit the continuing education documentation or information to be maintained or submitted by each dentist/dental hygienist as described herein to assure compliance with these rules. Failure to maintain the documentation or information set forth in these rules the submission of false or misleading information or documentation to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama or failure to submit requested documentation or information within the time specified by the Board may subject the dentist/dental hygienist, after hearing, to those penalties outlined in Code of Alabama (1975), § 34-9-18(b).

(4) WAIVER. Upon written request to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, and upon the demonstration of good and sufficient cause, the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama may grant a waiver or extension of time for the completion of the annual hour requirements for continuing education as set forth herein. Any such request must be received by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama prior to September first (1st) of the year in which the waiver or extension applies. Any such request received after the above referenced date will be considered untimely and denied. The dentist/dental hygienist who seeks such a waiver or extension shall submit to the Board of Dental

Examiners of Alabama any documentation required by the Board which the Board deems appropriate for it to make a decision concerning that waiver or extension.

#### (5) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION.

(a) Continuing dental education may include, but is not limited to, attendance at lectures, study clubs, college and post graduate courses, scientific sessions of conventions, research, graduate studies, teachings, service as a clinician, video tapes, journals, internet courses, publications or correspondence courses. Continuing education programs may include, but are not limited to, programs that address any of the following:

1. Competency in treating patients who are medically compromised or who experience medical emergencies during the course of dental treatment;
2. Knowledge of pharmaceutical products and the protocol of the proper use of medications or controlled substances;
3. Competency to diagnose oral pathology;
4. Awareness of currently accepted methods of infection control;
5. Basic medical and scientific subjects including but not limited to biology, physiology, pathology, biochemistry and pharmacology, analgesia, diet and nutrition, microbiology, anatomy, dental anatomy, microscopic anatomy, chemistry, organic chemistry and neurology;
6. Clinical and technological subjects including but not limited to techniques and procedures in general dentistry or recognized specialties, dental materials and equipment, diagnosis and treatment planning, asepsis and sterilization techniques and radiology;

7. Subjects pertinent to health and safety including but not limited to public health problems, communicable diseases, emergency care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, advanced life support, patient stress management, the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene and ethical considerations in the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene; and
8. Insurance, governmental regulations and tort liability and/or risk management.

(b) Programs or courses that include the following areas cannot be considered acceptable or satisfactory continuing education:

1. Personal finances;
2. Presentations by political or public figures or other persons who do not deal primarily with dental or dental hygiene practice;
3. Personal motivational courses; and
4. Presentations by political or public figures or other persons who do not deal primarily with dentistry/dental hygiene practice; Basic educational or cultural subjects not directly related to the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, outside the scope of the dentist/dental hygienist's practice or inconsistent with the dentist/dental hygienist's scope of practice.

(c) One (1) hour of continuing education credit shall be given for each hour of attendance and an hour of attendance shall be defined as exceeding Fifty (50) minutes. Two (2) hours of continuing education credit shall be given for each hour taught by a dentist/dental hygienist at a continuing education program provided, however, that no more than one-half (1/2) of the annual required hours can be completed or satisfied in this manner. A dentist/dental hygienist cannot attain more than eight (8) hours of continuing education credit for any one day.

(d) Programs meeting the general requirements of paragraph 5(a) above may be developed and offered to dentists/dental hygienists by any of the following agencies or organizations:

1. National, state, district or local dental associations affiliated with the American Dental Association or the National Dental Association;
2. Accredited dental colleges or schools;
3. National, state, district or local dental hygienists associations affiliated with the American or National Dental Hygienist Association or the American Dental Assistants Association and their constituent and opponent associations and societies;
4. Accredited dental hygiene colleges or schools; and

(e) The Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama shall have the right to monitor or audit any course or program to determine whether that course or program is in compliance with these rules.

#### (6) LICENSEES EXCUSED FROM CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Any dentist/dental hygienist licensed in the State of Alabama but practicing outside the State of Alabama; however, if such person returns to the State of Alabama, and desires to practice dentistry/dental hygiene, he/she shall then be required to submit evidence to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama prior to being allowed to practice, that they have attended and completed within the preceding five (5) years continuing education courses or programs which comply with these rules in a number of hours not less than twenty (20) nor more than One Hundred (100).

(b) Dentists enrolled fulltime in a postgraduate specialty training or residency program at a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation.

(c) Dental hygienists enrolled fulltime in an academic program directly related to dentistry/dental hygiene, including but not limited to the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program.

(d) Any dentist/dental hygienist who has permanently retired from the practice of dentistry/dental hygiene; however, if said person desires to return to the active practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, then he/she shall then be required to submit evidence to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, prior to being allowed to practice, that they have attended and completed within the preceding five (5) years continuing education courses or programs which comply with these rules.

(e) Dentists/dental hygienists who are not practicing and can demonstrate to the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama good cause for being excused from the application of these rules, such excuses including but not limited to age, disability, illness or disease. If such person returns to the active practice of dentistry/dental hygiene, then that person shall first be required to attend and complete continuing education courses or programs that would comply with these rules in a number of hours deemed appropriate by the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama.

(f) Any dentist/dental hygienist who fails to comply with the provisions of these rules or who otherwise violates the Alabama Dental Practice Act in connection with the requirements of these rules or relating to any information to be maintained or submitted to the Board as provided for in these rules shall be, upon notice and hearing, subject to the penalties outlined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-9-18(b).