



## **Notice of Proposed Changes to Regulations of the Board of Dental Examiners**

### **Proposed Regulations - FAQ**

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*September 2019*

#### **1. What are the regulations being proposed?**

##### 12 AAC 28.010 and 28.015-Deep sedation and general anesthesia, and moderate sedation permits.

These two sections are being updated to add the requirements for reinstatement of a lapsed deep sedation/general anesthesia permit, and a moderate sedation permit.

##### 12 AAC 28.400 and 405-Continuing education requirements.

These sections are being updated to add continuing education requirements for a dental hygienist restorative function endorsement. The new regulations will require two hours of continuing education relating to materials or techniques used for the restoration of teeth. The two hours of continuing education will be in *addition* to the dental hygienists continuing education for renewal of the hygienist license.

##### 12 AAC 28.410(i)-Approved continuing education courses.

This subsection is being added to limit the amount of internet based continuing education required for license renewal to eight hours in a 24-hour period.

##### 12 AAC 28.780-Dental hygienist restorative function endorsement.

This section is being updated to include the word “lapsed” in addition to “expired”, and new regulations for the renewal requirements of a dental hygienist restorative function endorsement. The renewal requirements are: a complete application, fees, and completion of continuing education as required by 12 AAC 28.400(c).

##### 12 AAC 28.880-Renewal of dental assistant’s restorative function certificate.

The changes to this section will require the dental assistant with a restorative function certificate to complete two hours of continuing education relating to materials or techniques used for the restoration of teeth to renew their certificate. The new language will also limit the renewal of a

restorative function certificate to less than two years. This means that if the certificate lapses for two years or more, the assistant must apply for a new certificate if they want to perform restorative functions again.

#### 12 AAC 28.905-Ethical standards.

This section is being updated to allow for the most recent versions of the Bylaws-Code of Ethics for dental hygienists, and the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct for dentists.

#### 12 AAC 28.940 and 951-Dental licensure by examination and credentials.

These two sections are being updated to allow for the new Integrated National Board Dental Examination. The National Board Dental Examination, administered by the American Dental Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, required for licensure by examination and credentials, will be phased out in the next couple of years and they will institute the new integrated exam.

## **2. What is the purpose of the regulations being proposed?**

#### 12 AAC 28.010 and 28.015- Deep sedation and general anesthesia, and moderate sedation permits.

The changes to both sections will clarify what happens when a licensee fails to renew a sedation permit at the time they renew their dental license. The regulations add a lapsed status and an avenue to reinstate the lapsed sedation permit. This gives the board guidance on handling reinstatement of the sedation permit which is similar to the dental license.

The changes clarify what is required for meeting the continuing education and documentation of sedation cases if the license is lapsed. This will give the dentist an opportunity to complete sedation cases after their permit has lapsed while under supervision of a sedation permitted dentist, a licensed anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist either in this state or another state, or while taking a refresher course.

- a. If my sedation permit lapsed and is reinstated, will the sedation cases and continuing education I completed during the current license period count towards the next renewal of my sedation permit?  
No, you will need to complete additional continuing education and document the required number of sedation cases after the sedation permit has been reinstated to meet the continuing education and sedation cases required for the next renewal.
- b. How long may the sedation permit be lapsed before it may not be reinstated?  
The sedation permit may only be reinstated prior to two years after the lapsed date, the same as the dental license requirements. If the sedation permit lapses for two years or more, the licensee must apply for and be issued a new permit to be able to perform sedation.

#### 12 AAC 28.400 and 405-Continuing education requirements.

Changes to the dental hygienist restorative function endorsement require the hygienist to complete two hours of continuing education to renew the endorsement. This will ensure the hygienist is keeping up with current and new techniques for filling teeth, just as dentists must keep up with current restorative techniques.

a. When will this go into effect?

The changes will go into effect in approximately 90 to 120 days after the beginning of the public comment period. The hygienist with the restorative function endorsement will be required to comply with the new CE requirements at the February 2021 renewal period. Evidence of meeting the CE for the restorative function endorsement will be required on the renewal form. This will give the licensee a year to complete the initial two hours of CE.

12 AAC 28.410(i)-Approved continuing education courses.

The changes will limit the amount of internet based continuing education (CE) taken during a 24-hour period to ensure the licensee takes their time in completing the course. Each course worth one credit should include a minimum of 50 minutes of reviewing content and taking a short quiz. Completing more than eight hours of CE during a 24-hour period does not ensure the licensee is reviewing all of the course content.

12 AAC 28.780-Dental hygienist restorative function endorsement.

The purpose of the changes to this section are to clarify that the dental hygienist restorative function endorsement lapses or expires on the date the hygienist's license lapses or expires. This means that if a hygienist license lapses or expires, the restorative function endorsement will not be able to be renewed or reinstated until the hygienist license is renewed or reinstated. As the dental hygienist may not renew their license if it has expired for two years or more, this clarifies that the restorative function endorsement will also not be allowed to be reinstated if the hygienist license expires.

The change also clarifies what is required to renew the endorsement including a completed form, fees, and documentation of meeting new the CE requirements.

12 AAC 28.880-Renewal of dental assistant's restorative function certificate.

Changes to the dental assistant restorative function certificate require the assistant to complete two hours of continuing education to renew the certificate. This will ensure the assistant is keeping up with current and new techniques for filling teeth, just as dentists must keep up with current restorative techniques.

a. When will this go into effect?

The changes will go into effect in approximately 90 to 120 days after the beginning of the public comment period. The assistant with the restorative function certificate will be required to comply with the new CE requirements at the February 2021 renewal period. Evidence of meeting the continuing education for the restorative function certificate will be required on the renewal form. This will give the licensee a year to complete the initial two hours of CE.

12 AAC 28.905-Ethical standards.

The board is updating the ethical standards for dental hygienists and dentists to conform with the current standards available.

12 AAC 28.940 and 951-Dental licensure by examination and credentials.

These changes are required to ensure the examination requirements in regulations are in line with the new examinations that will be required by the American Dental Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations. Starting in 2020, the NBDE Part I and Part II will be phased out and the new Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) will be instituted. The changes will allow anyone completing the new exam to qualify for licensure.

**3. Are there any costs to the licensee for these changes?**

The only costs associated with the new regulations will be for the continuing education required for renewal of a restorative function endorsement and the assistant restorative function certificate.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email [RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov](mailto:RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov) so it can be added.