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

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

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The changes proposed in these regulations affect dental hygienists only.

1. What are the regulations being proposed? Why are the regulations being amended?

12 AAC 28.320(a)(4). Application for certification to administer local anesthetic agents.

The change in this section is strictly to clarify that the examination required to obtain a local anesthesia permit includes the written and clinical components of the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) local anesthesia examination. This is not a change in the current required examination, but is clarifying the examination includes the patient based and written components.

This will make it clear to applicants that the examination required is both the written and the patient based clinical portions of the local anesthetic examination.

12 AAC 28.935(a)(7). Dental hygienist licensure by examination.

The proposed changes to this section include:

- Removing the requirement of the Western Regional Examining Board examination (WREB) and replacing with it with an examination conducted by another regional examining board that includes the proposed components
- Adding content requirements for the examination

Currently the regulations only allow for the WREB examination for a dental hygienist who has either just graduated from a hygiene program, or who has been licensed in another state for less than five years. The reason for these changes is to give applicants more options by allowing other regional exams for licensure by examination.

2. Will these changes affect current licensees?

No, these changes are for hygienists who have not received an Alaska license, and who are applying for a license by examination only, or are currently licensed and applying for a local anesthetic permit.

3. Will these changes affect applicants who are applying for a license by credentials?

No, these changes will affect applicants applying by examination only. If an applicant has just graduated from a dental hygiene program, or has been licensed in another state for less than five years, the applicant must apply for a license by examination.

4. Are there any costs to the applicant for these changes?

There are no additional costs expected to comply with the proposed regulations.

5. What patient based clinical examinations will the board approve?

The board expects that most regional examinations will meet the requirements listed in the regulations, but due to examinations changing frequently, the board has determined not to list specific regional examinations.

6. What are the positive and negative consequences of these changes?

Currently only applicants who have taken the WREB exam may qualify for licensure by examination. These changes will allow an applicant applying by examination to submit verification of passing a regional examination in any part of the country, as long as the components of the examination meet the regulations. This will ensure that hygienists are competent to provide services to the public.

There are no negative consequences to the proposed changes.

When will the new regulations be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, or choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations go to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the lieutenant governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the lieutenant governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.