

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

POLICY / PROCEDURE

CERTIFICATION FOR ADMINISTRATION OF INFILTRATION ANESTHESIA

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 40-15-80(E)

POLICY

S.C. Code Ann. Section 40-15-80(E) authorizes a dental hygienist to administer local infiltration anesthesia "upon certification by the board and when under the direct supervision of a practicing dentist." The requirement by the General Assembly of certification recognizes the inherent risk to the patient from the administration of anesthesia. Therefore, to reasonably assure that dental hygienists administering infiltration anesthesia have received appropriate professional training before they administer it to members of the public, this Board has been delegated responsibility for reviewing and approving courses and other training in this method of anesthesia. The Board will review on a case by case basis all courses submitted for approval for this purpose.

PROCEDURE

Course Approval

Course sponsors requesting Board approval must provide staff with all documentation requested by the Board including, but not limited to: (1) a description of the faculty and their professional qualifications; (2) the location(s) for the course and equipment to be used in training; (3) the maximum class size(s); (4) the dates, times, and fees to be charged; (5) a detailed course outline; (6) a copy of any handouts or other materials to be distributed to attendees; (7) a copy of any textbooks or publications used as primary course materials or a bibliography of supporting authorities, and (8) a copy of a test on which attendees will be tested for proficiency at the conclusion of the course of instruction. If a test has not yet been devised and a copy made available for review, a list of topics on which attendees will be tested for proficiency at the conclusion of the course of instruction must be provided. Staff will safeguard the confidentiality of and access to tests submitted by course sponsors. Additional information requested by the Board must be promptly provided by the course sponsor for the Board's review and consideration. Approval of the course shall be in the form of a letter from the Board administrator. If any substantive changes are proposed once a course has been approved, such proposal shall be submitted to the Board for review and approval. The administrator will provide sponsors of courses that are not approved with a letter so advising of the Board's decision and relating any comments from the Board regarding deficiencies noted.

Applications for Certification

Applicants may become certified to administer local infiltration anesthesia provided they meet the following requirements: (1) must hold a current license to practice dental hygiene in S.C.; (2) must be currently certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); (3) must have successfully completed an approved course in local infiltration anesthesia within the past three years; or been certified in another state to perform infiltration anesthesia within the past three years, and (4) must successfully complete the State Board Anesthesia Examination. For purposes of the State Board Anesthesia Examination, the Board may, in its discretion, allow applicants to sit for the Anesthesia Exam provided applicant has met all requirements for dental hygiene license and whose application for hygiene license is pending final approval by the Board. Before an applicant can be issued a Certificate to Administer Infiltration Anesthesia; however, he/she must first have been issued a License to Practice Dental Hygiene in this State. Applicants shall document satisfactory completion of an approved training course and

exit examination upon an application form approved by the Board with proper payment of any fee required to cover the administration of the certification program. Upon receipt of a satisfactory application and required fee, the applicant will be scheduled for the State Board Anesthesia Examination. After successful completion of this examination, the Board of Dentistry shall issue an appropriate certificate to the applicant authorizing the administration of infiltration anesthesia when under the direct supervision of a practicing dentist.

Effective January 1, 2004, the State Board Anesthesia Examination was written and adopted. It may be administered by ADA/DANB accredited schools or at the Board office. An applicant who fails the examination may retake the exam up to two (2) times by application and with proper payment of the required fee. An applicant who fails to achieve a passing grade on the examination after three (3) attempts must complete another Board-approved course in local infiltration anesthesia prior to being eligible to apply again for certification.

Renewal of Certificate

Renewal of the certificate is required biennially. Applicant may renew his/her certificate provided he/she has been performing infiltration anesthesia (on a regular basis) and is currently certified in CPR. Applicant wishing to renew his/her certificate shall indicate this on the licensure re-registration form and include proper payment of the required fee. An applicant who does not wish to renew his/her certificate shall indicate this on the licensure re-registration form. The certificate will automatically expire on March 1 of the biennial renewal year. An expired certificate may be reinstated within two (2) years by submitting payment of the required fee. After more than two (2) years, an expired certificate may be reinstated if the applicant successfully passes the State Board Anesthesia Examination.