



# New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care

## Dental Hygiene Jurisprudence Exam

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

***The purpose of this examination is to test the applicant's familiarity with the law and rules that govern the practice of dental hygiene in New Mexico. Your responsibility is to read the entire Dental Health Care Act and the Rules, which are Chapter 5, Title 16, of the NM Administrative Code.***

*This is an "open book" exam based on the Dental Health Care Rules.*

**ALL ANSWERS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED IN BLACK OR BLUE INK.**

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### **Section I: Multiple Choice- Please circle the letter for the correct answer.**

1. Which of the following is **not** within the scope of practice of a licensed dental hygienist in the State of New Mexico:
  - A. Preliminary assessment of periodontal conditions
  - B. Removal of diseased crevicular tissue
  - C. Interpretation of dental radiographs
  - D. Application of subgingival therapeutic agents
  
2. If the Committee has cause to believe a dental hygienist is addicted to drugs or alcohol, or mentally or physically incapable of practicing dental hygiene with reasonable skill and safety, the Committee, with Board concurrence, may:
  - A. Require the hygienist to be examined by an examining committee to determine fitness to practice dental hygiene
  - B. Issue a formal reprimand
  - C. Without a hearing, summarily revoke the hygienist's license
  - D. All of the above
  
3. Ms. Hygienist graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and is certified to administer local anesthesia. The hygienist last took BLS three years ago and her card has expired. She has been giving local anesthesia for Dr. Jones for ten years. Dr. Jones left the office during a break in his schedule, and the hygienist needed to anesthetize a patient for a difficult prophylaxis. The anesthesia was indeed delivered, uneventfully, and Dr. Jones returned before the patient was dismissed.
  - A. The administration of anesthesia was legal, but the expired BLS card was not.
  - B. The administration of the anesthesia was illegal, and the expired BLS card was also
  - C. Since Dr. Jones authorized the local anesthesia, but was not in the office, the hygienist's anesthesia certificate complied with the Rules.

- D. The definition of general supervision allows local anesthesia to be given, even if the BLS requirement is not met.
4. Each applicant for licensure as a dental hygienist by credentials must possess the following qualifications:
- 1 Graduated and received a diploma from an accredited dental hygiene school
  - 2 Completed forty five (45) hours of approved continuing education during the past thirty-six months.
  - 3 Successfully completed the Dental Hygiene National Board
  - 4 Successfully completed the Western Regional Examining Board
  - 5 Hold a valid license by examination in another state or territory of the US
- A. 1, 3, 4 and 5  
B. all of the above  
C. 1, 3, and 5  
D. 1, 3, 5, and 4
5. If at renewal an employed dental hygienist does not have the required continuing education credits, the applicant may:
- A. Stop practicing until the CE hours are complete
  - B. Not send in the renewal until the hours are complete
  - C. Send in the renewal form and fee and apply to the Committee for an emergency deferral, which will allow three months to complete the requirements
  - D. Include on the renewal courses that have been paid for and intent to complete in the next 30 days
6. If a dental hygiene license is revoked only for failure to renew, a hygienist may request reinstatement without having to take a written or practical exam, within how many years of the revocation notice?
- A. 1
  - B. 2
  - C. 3
  - D. 5
7. The authorization by a dentist of the procedures to be used by a dental hygienist and the execution of the procedures in accordance with the dentist's diagnosis and treatment plan is the definition of which type of supervision?
- A. Direct supervision.
  - B. Indirect supervision
  - C. General supervision
  - D. Certified supervision

8. Responsibilities of a consulting dentist for the collaborative practice hygienist include:
1. Knowing that the dental hygienist is duly licensed
  2. Providing a written prescription within seven days after giving a verbal prescriptions that varies from the written protocol agreement
  3. Providing dental care to patients of his/her collaborative hygienist
  4. Having on file how many other consulting dentists are associated with the collaborative practice
- A. 2, 3, and 4  
B. 1, 2, and 3  
C. 1, 3, and 4  
D. All of the above
9. All dental hygienists applying for license renewal are required to have taken a course during the previous triennial period in the following subject(s):
- A. Infection control  
B. Dental jurisprudence  
C. Radiation health and safety  
D. Both (A) and (C)
10. Failure to submit a completed renewal application by August 31 of the renewal year may result in:
- A. Summons to appear before the Committee  
B. License revocation  
C. Written reprimand  
D. Committee censure
11. Which of the following in **not** cause for disciplinary action against a New Mexico licensed dental hygienist:
- A. Failure to provide patient education  
B. Using appropriate infection control techniques and sterilization procedures  
C. Failure to inform the dentist and/or the patient of periodontal assessment  
D. Offering to perform service for which the hygienist does not have appropriate education, experience and/or training to be competent
12. Dentists may provide dental hygienists a “written authorization” to provide hygiene care to residents/patients of nursing homes, long-term care facilities and hospitals. Such authorizations are valid for no longer than:
- A. A “reasonable period of time”  
B. An unspecified period of time  
C. 30 days  
D. 11 months

13. Dental hygienists who are qualified in New Mexico to administer local anesthesia shall be required to:
1. Submit an application and fee for expanded function certificate
  2. Have current CPR certification
  3. Have two years of clinical experience before applying for certification
  4. Administer local anesthesia under general supervision
- A. 1 and 4  
B. 1 and 3  
C. 1 and 2  
D. All of the above
14. Regarding the “Prescribed Administration” of nitrous oxide, and the administration of local anesthesia, consider the following: The doctor decided to leave the office at 3:00 p.m., while his hygienist has a 4:00 p.m. patient requiring local anesthesia and nitrous oxide for a deep scaling and root planning. The hygienist has a current certificate for local anesthesia, and the Dr. has a nitrous oxide permit, which is also current. Assuming the office has all the required personnel with current BLS cards, and the dentist has authorized the hygienist to administer the anesthesia and nitrous oxide, it is legal for the hygienist to:
1. Administer local anesthesia
  2. Administer nitrous oxide analgesia
  3. Administer neither local anesthesia or nitrous oxide
  4. Perform the deep scaling and root planning without anesthesia
- A. 3 and 4  
B. 1, 2, and 4  
C. 1 and 4  
D. 2 and 4
15. Dental hygienists in New Mexico practice under general supervision, which means:
- A. The supervising dentist must be in the practice facility
  - B. The supervising dentist must have examined the patient in the last 60 days
  - C. The dentist must have authorized the service to be performed and the hygienist must be in accordance with the diagnosis and treatment plan
  - D. The dentist must examine the patient before they are dismissed.
16. According to the Rules (MNAC), to avoid a penalty, license renewal must postmarked no later than:
- A. May 31
  - B. July 1
  - C. July 31
  - D. August

17. If it is determined that a dental assistant is guilty of performing an expanded function without the appropriate certification, person(s) who may be disciplined is (are):
- A. The supervising dentist
  - B. The office manager and appointment secretary
  - C. The patient
  - D. Both (A) and (B)
18. In addition to the Dental Health Care Act, what laws govern disciplinary proceedings?
- A. The Uniform Licensing Act
  - B. The Public Records Act
  - C. The Mileage and Per Diem Act
  - D. The Governmental Conduct Act
19. Triennial re-licensing year is determined by:
- A. Issue Date
  - B. Alphabet of licensee's last name
  - C. Year of graduation
  - D. First digit of license number
20. A dental hygiene licensee may be disciplined (to include license revocation, suspension, fines, stipulation or limitation of license) if found guilty of:
- A. Performing local anesthesia without a current certificate
  - B. Non-payment of New Mexico state income tax
  - C. Practicing when the dentist is not in the office
  - D. All of the above

**Section II: True/False - Please circle the letter for the correct answer.**

21. Universal barrier precautions are mandatory in all dental care settings.  
T F
22. A collaborative practice hygienist is limited to only one consulting dentist.  
T F
23. Study clubs are an avenue to obtain continuing education credits and have specific organizational requirements.  
T F
24. Courses dealing with money management, personal finances or personal business matters, and courses in basic educational or cultural subjects that are not taught in direct relationship to dental care may be used to fulfill continuing education requirements.  
T F
25. Applications are only valid for six months from the date of receipt.  
T F
26. A dental hygienist who has been retired for six years may reinstate his/her license by paying all lapsed renewal fees and providing proof of continuing education.  
T F
27. Dental assistants may polish teeth under general supervision without certification.  
T F
28. If your license expires it is automatically placed in retirement status.  
T F
29. The Department of Health will provide the Dental Hygienists' Committee with recommended practice restrictions following evaluation of providers with transmissible bloodborne infections.  
T F
30. A dentist may prescribe the administration of nitrous oxide by a dental hygienist or dental assistant as long as the dentist is in the office.  
T F