

NEW MEXICO DENTAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE

UPDATES AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS FEBRUARY 2017

NEW RULES FOR DENTAL HYGIENIST INITIAL CERTIFICATION IN LOCAL ANESTHESIA:

Local anesthesia administration in New Mexico is not included as a function of dental hygiene licensure; it may only be performed by dental hygienists who have been separately certified by the committee to perform the expanded function. The administration of local anesthesia requires the indirect supervision of a dentist unless certified to do so under general supervision (see 16.5.28.11 NMAC). Effective [March 15, 2017](#) the qualifications and examination requirements for dental hygienists to be initially certified in local anesthesia have changed. This newsletter will provide a brief explanation and answer some Frequently Asked Questions. The complete rule and regulation can be found in 16.5.28 NMAC.

INITIAL LOCAL ANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS BY EXAMINATION, **CURRICULUM:**

A dental hygienist that has taken a local anesthesia course as part of the curriculum of an accredited dental hygiene degree program (16.5.28.9 A) is required to successfully pass a written local

anesthesia examination by the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) or other board approved written exam.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

“WE ARE OBLIGATED TO PRACTICE OUR PROFESSION IN A MANNER THAT SUPPORTS OUR PURPOSE, BELIEFS, AND VALUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPALS THAT SUPPORT OUR ETHICS”

~ADHA CODE OF ETHICS

INITIAL LOCAL ANESTHESIA CERTIFICATION FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS BY EXAMINATION, **NON-CURRICULUM:**

A dental hygienist that has taken an approved education course that was not part of the curriculum of a dental hygiene degree, which consists of at least 24 didactic hours and 10 hours of clinical training, is required to successfully pass a written and clinical local anesthesia

examination by the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) or other board approved written and clinical exam.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

- *What do I do if I already paid for a written and clinical exam?*

New Mexico is only requiring successful completion of a written exam; however, there are a few other states who still require the clinical exam for local anesthesia. This may be a consideration for future practice and licensure portability in other states.

- *What other options do I have for a written exam?*

At the time of this rule adoption the WREB written local anesthesia exam was the only written exam accepted. However, as of April 7th 2017 the dental hygiene committee is now accepting both **WREB and CDCA local anesthesia exam results.**

- *How does this apply if I'm coming from another state?*

If you have been administering local anesthesia in the practice of dental hygiene for at least three of the past five years you can qualify for certification by credentials (16.5.28.10 NMAC). If not, then application must be made for initial licensure by examination: curriculum or non-curriculum.