

Vermont State Dental Society

Summary of Comments for the BDE Updated Administrative Rules

General Changes:

- **CPR and Emergency Office Procedures-** Both are defined in section 1: Definitions. Both courses will be required by all dental licensed professionals (Dentists, Dental Therapists, Hygienists, and Assistants) in every 2-year license renewal period or prior to working. (CPR can also be required yearly in certain dental circumstances. See Rules). No CEU's can be counted for CPR. Emergency Office Procedures must be 2 CEUs (2 hours) minimum.

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Part 5: Dental Therapists Completely new section added for Dental Therapists

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5-3 Dental Therapist (a) Traditional Endorsement and (b) Fast-track Endorsement. Includes new pathways for dental therapists to be licensed in VT.

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6-3 Dental Hygienist Licensure by Endorsement. (a) Traditional Endorsement and (b) Fast-track Endorsement. Includes new Fast-track.

6-4 Scope of Practice for Hygienists. Many additions and revisions to this section.

6-4(c) Nitrous Oxide. A dental hygienist, when they have the outlined training (rule 9-2) and license specialty, may initiate or discontinue nitrous oxide.

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6-4(d) SMART. A dental hygienist can perform the SMART technique following the rules under this section.

6-5 Guidelines for Public-health Hygienists. New additions to the rules in this section. Outlines specifics for working parameters and use of SDF and SMART technique.

Page: 13 Dental Assistants

General Notes:

- The time a dental assistant must have working or observational experience in a dental office has been reduced from 6-months to 4-months (see Rule 9-4 (b)).
- To maintain a dental radiography specialty, a dental assistant must have completed training within the preceding 10 years or practiced radiography under the supervision of a licensed dentist within the preceding 5 years (see Rule 10-4 (d)).

7-1 Registration (a) Traditional.

- The Office of Professional Regulation has removed the 30-day window for registering a dental assistant. **All dental assistants must be registered and licensed before starting to work.**
- Coronal polishing can be performed when the supervising dentist has personally verified the assistant's ability to competently perform those tasks. A TDA may place SDF if appropriately trained.

7-2 Education within Six Months. The dental assistant has six months to complete CPR and Emergency Office Procedures.

Page: 14: Dentist & Therapists Anesthesia Specialties.

This section has been substantially modified and updated to today's standards.

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9-1 Local Anesthesia specialty for Dental Hygienists.

There is no longer a requirement for administering a minimum number of injections during a specific time period for maintaining the dental anesthesia specialty/privilege.

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9-2 Nitrous Oxide Specialty for Dental Hygienists

Adopted in 2019, the ability for dental hygienists to receive a specialty for administering nitrous oxide is now included in the rules.

9-3 Expanded Function (EFDA) Specialty

Guidelines for program requirements are now outlined.

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9-4 Radiography Specialty for Traditional Dental Assistants

The working/observational experience in a dental office has been reduced from 6 months to 4 months before the specialty can be obtained.

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10-4 License Renewal Requirements

Specific credit amounts, course requirements are outlined for Dentists, Dental Therapists, Hygienists, and Assistants. CPR AND Emergency Office Procedures are required for all. Dentists need 2 CEUs Opioid-prescribing (if applicable). Dental Therapists need 24 hours of CE. All 18 CEUs for hygienists will be clinical. Dental assistants will only need CPR and Emergencies. They will not have any further state CE obligations (DANB certification is an outside organization with CE requirements).

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Part 11: Duties and Standards, Part 12: Discipline

This section has been revised and should be noted for details.