



VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

BRIEFS

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2012 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ADDRESSING DENTAL AND DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICE

- **Dental and dental hygiene school faculty; licensure.** Companion bills HB 344 and SB 384 amended several sections of the Dentistry Chapter of the Code of Virginia to: expand eligibility for temporary licenses to practice in advanced dental education programs; consolidate and clarify the requirements for a restricted license to teach dentistry or dental hygiene in a Virginia dental school or program; and extends the expiration of a restricted license for a foreign dentist to teach dentistry in Virginia from one year to two years. The Board of Dentistry will consider adoption of exempt regulations to implement these changes at its September 7, 2012 meeting.
- **Dental hygienists; scope of practice.** SB 146 expands a pilot program to allow licensed dental hygienists employed by the Department of Health to provide educational and preventative dental care throughout the Commonwealth while under the remote supervision of a public health dentist. The bill requires submission of an annual report on the services provided which addresses the impact upon the oral health of the citizens of the Commonwealth to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. It also requires the Board of Dentistry to adopt the standing protocol as regulations so the Board will consider adoption of exempt regulations to implement this requirement at its September 7, 2012 meeting.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES FOR TESTING CLINICAL SKILLS

The Board of Dentistry is studying alternatives to traditional regional clinical examinations for evaluating the clinical skills of applicants seeking dental licensure. The Board, at its December 2011, March 2012 and June 2012 meetings, received presentations on:

- the evidence about the value of testing on human subjects;
- the content, structure and procedures for administering the Canadian National Dental Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) for testing; and
- the CA Portfolio Examination which evaluates competence within the course of established treatment plans for patients of record at dental schools. The exam covers the full continuum of competence by assessing skill throughout the course of treatment beginning with diagnosis and treatment planning.

The Board will be working with an expert advisory panel to evaluate the feasibility of establishing an OSCE or portfolio exam in Virginia.

MORE ON LABORATORY WORK ORDER FORMS

Following issuance of the January 2012 edition of BRIEFS, the Board received questions about the prescribed forms and about using forms furnished by dental labs. The Dental Laboratory Work Order Form and the Dental Laboratory Subcontractor Work Order Form are issued by the Board to guide dentists in meeting the legal requirements for work orders in §54.1-2719 of the **Code of Virginia**. Consider them to be a model or a template. Dentists have the option of using the Board's forms, forms supplied by a lab or their own forms. Just be sure that the information required to complete the Board's forms is included as part of the patient's treatment records and maintained as required by 18VAC60-20-15 of the **Regulations Governing Dental Practice**. The Board's forms can be reviewed on the Board's web page, www.dhp.virginia.gov/dentistry, by selecting the "Applications and Forms" tab in the first column then scrolling down to the bottom of the page to "Dental Labs." Users with Adobe Reader can download and save these PDF forms to complete electronically.

PERMITS FOR ADMINISTERING MODERATE SEDATION , DEEP SEDATION AND GENERAL ANESTHESIA

Regulations to require dentists to hold a Board issued permit in order to administer conscious/moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia are at the Governor's office for approval to publish. Information about applying for a permit will be mailed to all licensees following publication of the regulations in the Virginia Register of Regulations.

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The Board issues Guidance Documents to provide information on correctly applying or implementing statutes or regulations governing the practice of dentistry. Three of the most popular documents are:

- **Guidance Document 60-7, Delegation to Dental Assistants** lists the duties that might be delegated to dental assistants I and II in various treatment areas including restorative, hygiene, orthodontic and bleaching services as well as, the assistance permitted during administration of sedation and anesthesia.
- **Guidance Document 60-13, Policy on Administering Schedule II through VI Controlled Substances for Analgesia, Sedation and Anesthesia in Dental Offices/Practices** explains the meaning and application of the terms "administering," "under his direction and supervision" and "monitoring" then lists the duties that might be delegated to another dentist, an anesthesiologist, a certified registered nurse anesthetist, a dental hygienist, a dental assistant I or II and/or a nurse related to local anesthesia, inhalation analgesia, anxiolysis, conscious sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia.
- **Guidance Document 60-15, Standards for Professional Conduct in the Practice of Dentistry**
This guidance was developed following a review of several codes of conduct in the dental community to help licensees understand the responsibilities of being a professional. The Board adopted this guidance at its December 4, 2009 meeting.

Visit www.dhp.virginia.us/dentistry and select the "Guidance Documents" tab to review the full list of available documents.

Visit www.dhp.virginia.gov/dentistry to find meeting information, minutes and regulations.

E-mail denbd@dhp.virginia.gov with questions or to get on the mailing list for Board activities.

Register with the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall at www.townhall.virginia.gov for e-mail notices on the status of the Board's regulatory activities.