

# OHIO STATE DENTAL BOARD

## Continuing Education Information

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Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4715.141, 4715.25 and 4715.58, licensed dentists and dental hygienists are required to obtain continuing education (CE) hours (40 and 12 respectively) in order to renew their Ohio licenses. Currently, dentists and dental hygienists must complete continuing education that reflects appropriate didactic and clinical training for subject matter as defined by the *American Dental Association's* (ADA) definition of dentistry, which states in pertinent part:

"Dentistry is defined as the evaluation, diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment (nonsurgical, surgical or relate procedures) of diseases, disorders and/or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area and/or the adjacent and associated structures and their impact on the human body..."

Therefore, course content must comply with the guidelines set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 4715.141(A)(1) to (A)(7). Those guidelines are as follows:

- (1) Competency in treating patients who are medically compromised or who experience medical emergencies during the course of dental treatment;
- (2) Knowledge of pharmaceutical products and the protocol of the proper use of medications;
- (3) Competence to diagnose oral pathology;
- (4) Awareness of currently accepted methods of infection control;
- (5) Basic medical and scientific subjects including, but not limited to, biology, physiology, pathology, biochemistry, and pharmacology;
- (6) Clinical and technological subjects including, but not limited to, clinical techniques and procedures, materials, and equipment;
- (7) Subjects pertinent to health and safety.

Examples of course content which will not be considered acceptable for CE credit are practice management, money management, personal finance or business, basic educational or cultural subjects not related to direct patient care, teaching of the use of the Internet, general physical fitness or personal health issues, presentations by political or public figures, motivational courses, alternative medicine/theory which has no scientific basis, etc.

New CE rules became effective May 5, 2008 which pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4715-8-01(A) through (F), provide for CE hours in the following categories of credit:

- (A) "Directly interactive presentation format" means a presentation format in which each participant is able to provide direct feedback and have interaction with the instructor through a question and answer format in real time.
- (B) "Supervised self-instruction" means the coursework is provided in a self-instruction format which must include a testing mechanism supplied by a board-approved sponsor. The licensee must complete a test with a passing score of not less than seventy-five percent and demonstrate a level of comprehension before credit is awarded. Tests must be graded by the sponsor and results returned to the licensee. Supervised self-instruction includes, but is not limited to:
  - (1) Graded audio/video courses.
  - (2) Graded correspondence courses.
  - (3) Graded internet computer courses.
- (C) "Papers, publications and scientific presentations" means scientific papers authored by the licensee and published in a scientific professional journal, and/or the original presentation of papers, essays, scientific exhibits or formal lectures to recognized groups of fellow professionals. A maximum of four continuing education hours may be obtained in this category.
- (D) "Teaching and research appointments" means documented teaching or research activities at an accredited institution, at least one-half day per week per academic year, and holding at least a part-time faculty or research appointment as evidenced by a signed, dated letter of appointment from the chair or director of the accredited institution. A maximum of four continuing education hours may be obtained in this category.
- (E) "Volunteer service as a clinician" means continuing education credit may be awarded at a ratio of one continuing education credit for each four hours of volunteer clinical services provided through an approved program. An approved program is one sponsored by a permanent sponsor as defined in paragraph (A) of Administrative Code rule 4715-8-02, that allows licensees to provide substantial pro bono dental and dental hygiene services to indigent and underserved populations, or to persons who reside in areas of critical need in the state of Ohio. No remuneration shall be made to the licensee or the program sponsor for services provided under this section. A maximum of four continuing education hours may be obtained in this category.
- (F) "Table clinics" means the original presentation of or documented viewing of a table clinic at a professional meeting. A maximum of two continuing education hours may be obtained in this category.

| <b>Beginning in 2008-2009</b>                                  |                        |                                                 |                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>(A) Directly Interactive Presentation Format</b>            | <b>No Maximum</b>      | <b>(D) Teaching &amp; research appointments</b> | <b>4.0 Hrs Maximum</b>                                                |
| <b>(B) Supervised Self-instruction</b>                         | <b>No Maximum</b>      | <b>(E) Volunteer service as a clinician</b>     | <b>4.0 Hrs Maximum</b><br>1.0 hour awarded for each 4.0 hours service |
| <b>(C) Papers, publications &amp; scientific presentations</b> | <b>4.0 Hrs Maximum</b> | <b>(F) Table clinics</b>                        | <b>2.0 Hrs Maximum</b>                                                |

The Board has determined that the intent of dental and dental hygiene CE is to improve the clinical application of dentistry and dental hygiene to the citizens of the state of Ohio. Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4715-8-01:

“Acceptable continuing education for all Ohio licensees is defined as educational and scientific courses given by board-approved sponsors consisting of activities designed to review existing concepts and techniques, to convey information beyond the basic dental education and to update knowledge on advances in scientific, and clinical practice related subject matter, including evidence-based dentistry wherein the objective is to improve the knowledge, skills and ability of the individual to provide the highest quality of service to the public and the profession.”

Additionally, dentists and dental hygienists who take the same exact course more than once during a biennium will only be permitted to claim the total continuing education hours for the first completion of the course.

### **IMPORTANT!**

The Ohio State Dental Board does not approve individual courses/programs (except for those courses with specific requirements such as the dental hygiene medical emergency course or those courses designated for anesthesia or conscious sedation permit renewal).

**Recognition of a sponsor does not imply endorsement of the course/program content presented.**

Any Ohio dental licensee who intends to renew their license at the end of the biennium (December 31, 2007 for dentists and dental hygienists and December 31, 2006 for dental assistant radiographers) must obtain the requisite number of CE hours (40 for dentists, 12 for dental hygienists and 2 for dental assistant radiographers) from an approved sponsor of the Board. There are only two (2) types of Board-approved CE providers:

**Permanent Sponsor** - An organization, school or other dental-related organization or entity who conducts professional education courses. Those being:

- (1) "American Dental Association", and constituent and component dental associations and societies affiliated with the "American Dental Association."
- (2) "National Dental Association", and constituent and component dental associations and societies affiliated with the "National Dental Association."
- (3) "American Dental Hygienists Association", and its recognized constituents, components and affiliated societies.
- (4) "National Dental Hygienists Association", and constituent and component dental hygienists' associations and societies affiliated with the "National Dental Hygienists Association."
- (5) National, state, district or local dental specialty organizations affiliated with the "American Dental Association"
- (6) "Academy of General Dentistry" and its constituent and component organizations.
- (7) Colleges and universities with accredited schools of dentistry or dental hygiene and community colleges with approved dental hygiene programs, when the continuing professional education program is held under the auspices of the school of dentistry or dental hygiene, or the dental hygiene program.
- (8) Colleges or universities accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United States Office of Education. Hospitals accredited by the "Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)."
- (9) Other organizations, schools or other dental related organizations that by board action are listed as permanent sponsors.

**Biennial Sponsor** - Individuals, trade corporations, institutions, study clubs, dental research clinics, and nondental-related entities or groups that have applied and been approved by the board as sponsors for the current biennium.

Additionally, by policy the Board accepts *American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program* (ADA CERP) providers as long as they remain in good standing and are in compliance with the recognition standards and criteria of the *ADA CERP Committee*, the *Council on Dental Education and Licensure*, and the guidelines set forth in Ohio's Dental Practice Act (Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes Chapter 4715). A listing of approved ADA CERP providers is available on-line at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) or you may contact the ADA at 312/440-2869.