

OVERVIEW

Local Anesthesia for Dental Hygienists

The Rules regarding the provision of local anesthesia services by dental hygienists under direct supervision of a licensed dentist are now in place, and are effective. The statute is Ohio Revised Code 4715.231, and the rule is Ohio Administrative Code 4715-9-01(D).

No application or registration is required by the dental hygienist prior to performing this duty. HOWEVER, certain requirements must be satisfied before a dental hygienist is legally permitted to administer local anesthesia.

These are:

1. Successfully complete an Ohio State Dental Board-approved course in the administration of local anesthesia through an ADA accredited program, which includes at least 15 hours of didactic training, and 14 hours of clinical experience in the 11 areas set forth in the statute.
2. Within 18 months of completion of the course, successfully pass a state or regional written examination on local anesthesia. Currently, the Board has approved only the NERB and WREB exams for local anesthesia by the dental hygienist.
3. The dental hygienist must be currently certified in basic life support procedures/CPR at all times when performing this duty.

An application for course approval was prepared by the Education Committee and has been approved by the Board, and is ready to be used. This application is designed to approve local anesthesia programs and continuing education courses to qualify dental hygienists to be able to administer local anesthesia. The application can be submitted by either the program/course sponsor, or by an individual dental hygienist seeking retroactive course/program approval.

In order to be reviewed/considered for approval, each application, whether submitted by the program/course sponsor, or by the individual dental hygienist, MUST include:

- Faculty requirements to include curriculum vitae indicating professional training and clinical experience in local anesthesia, and,
- A detailed curriculum outline which indicates the number of didactic and clinical hours spent on the course content consistent with what is provided in the statute.

If the Board would approve a course/program that is in existence and has already been completed, the licensee must still take the Board approved local anesthesia examination for dental hygienists within 18 months of completing the course.

Once the requirements have been satisfied, the dental hygienist can then begin to administer local anesthesia in accordance with the laws and rules. Specifically, they can administer intraoral block and infiltration local anesthesia to a patient under direct supervision of a dentist.

No certificate will be issued by the Board, and the dentist must be able to provide the verification/documentation that the dental hygienist is qualified upon request by the Board.

A list of approved programs will be listed on our web site soon.