

Government Relations – August 2021

Amendments to BPC1750, Infection Control Course Requirements Approved by the DBC
BPC1750 currently allows up to 12 months for an on-the-job-trained dental assistant to complete the eight-hour dental board approved course. We requested that this be changed to require the completion of this course ***prior to the potential exposure to blood, saliva or OPIM.***

As previously reported, the DAC approved our proposal for amendments to BPC1750, Infection Control Requirements that would amend the infection control course requirements for the unlicensed dental assistant. This action by the DAC was reported to the Dental Board, who took action on it at the August 20, 2021 meeting. After no discussion by board members and stakeholder opposition from the CDA, the proposal was passed unanimously (with one abstention – from the RDA representative on the Board). The Board will now seek an omnibus bill; if that is not successful, it will be placed into Sunset Review.

Program Re-evaluations

The Dental Board has begun doing program re-evaluations again (following the hold due to COVID in 2020) and are also now re-evaluating EF Programs.

Over the past year, the Board has received complaints alleging that some Board-approved programs and courses are operating out of compliance and/or operating at locations that do not have Board-approval. In each of these cases, Board staff have worked with legal counsel to determine the appropriate resolution following an investigation into each specific compliance issue or complaint. In instances where the Board was notified that a Board-approved program or course was potentially operating out of compliance, the Board has issued notices of re-evaluation. In instances where a program or course location was operating and claiming to have Board-approval but does not, Cease and Desist Notices have been issued.

RDAEF Proposal

At its November 2018 meeting, the Dental Assisting Council approved a proposal from the EF Association (presented by Joan Greenfield) to expand the scope of practice for the RDAEF to include local anesthesia and nitrous oxide. The request was that the Dental Board conduct surveys and workgroups that would produce data and information to take to the DBC for discussion and action. At the August meeting, the DBC voted down the proposal (in a vote of 9N – 5Y).

Dental Assisting Comprehensive Rulemaking Package (16CCR 1067-1081.3)

The package that it is anticipated that this is still at least 18 months before ready for implementation.

RDAEF Practical & Clinical Exam

The practical and clinical exams were suspended in 2020 due to COVID. However, DBC was able to schedule exams with UOP for July and August exams. Half of the approximately 200 candidates opted to test.

SB607 was introduced earlier this year and will eliminate the requirement for a clinical and/or practical exam to become licensed as an RDAEF. If signed by the Governor, it will go into effect January 1, 2022.

The RDAEF occupational analysis was completed in July. The final workshop will be held August 20-21. This will include finalizing a new examination outline, which is to incorporate additional content that measures competencies related to cord retraction and final impression (items that were measured by the clinical/practical exam). The DBC anticipates that the new examination will be ready for implementation January 1, 2022. Candidates who have already taken and passed a written exam will not be required to take the new exam.

Orthodontic Assistant (OA) Written Exam

At the recommendation of the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES), the OA exam is being modified to account for the increase in candidates taking the exam. The exam will increase from 65 scoreable and no pretest questions to 75 scoreable and 25 pretest questions. Candidates will now have 120 minutes to complete the exam. The new exam will be ready by September 1, 2022. The Examination Candidate Manual was updated and is now available.

Upcoming 2021 Dental Board meeting dates are:

- November 18/19, 2021

The tentative schedule for Dental Board 2022 meeting dates (which may be held in person) are:

- Feb 10/11, 2022
- May 12/13, 2022, Anaheim
- August 25/26, 2022
- October 7, 2022: special meeting to review the draft sunset review background report
- November 17/18, 2022