

Newsletter

# TEXAS STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

August 2025



## Table of Contents

Presiding Officer Message.....	Page 2
Agency News.....	Page 3
Licensing.....	Page 4 - 5
Rules.....	Page 6
Dental Practice.....	Page 7
Clinical Minute.....	Page 8
Photos.....	Page 9 - 10



## **A Message from the TSBDE Presiding Officer Dr. David H. Yu**



### **Implants and the Standard of Care**

Dental implants have become a widely accepted standard of care for tooth replacement. However, the surgical placement of implants is one of the most technically demanding procedures, often deceptively challenging. As we see more dentists placing implants, there has been a corresponding increase in standard-of-care complaints, some of which have resulted in serious patient harm. We've heard testimony from stakeholders, such as from a mobile anesthesiologist, expressing their concerns. Analyses by Dental Review Panel (DRP) members indicate that many of these issues stem from inadequate surgical knowledge and skills, as well as poor treatment planning.

During a recent board meeting, board member, Ms. Lois Palermo, RDH, raised concerns about patient safety in implant surgeries. The question she posed was: "Should additional education be required for dentists performing implant placement?" Currently, only two state boards, Oklahoma and Oregon, mandate continuing education (CE) for implant surgery. While Texas Board rules do not require specific CE for dentists who place implants, it is incumbent upon the respondent dentist to show proof of adequate training during a standard of care complaint resolution. Additionally, the board rules do not explicitly outline implant documentation requirements, however rule §108.8(a) does require documentation of "materials used" which includes implant specifications (brand, size, reference/lot, and expiration).

The Texas Dental Board adheres to the standard of care (§108.7), defined as what a prudent dentist would do." Surgical specialists establish the standard for implant therapy. It applies to all dentists irrespective of their training level. Based on how the board rules are written, the board has a mandate to discipline the license of any dentist who does not prudently adhere to the standard of care.

At this time, the Texas Dental Board has not implemented additional CE requirements for dentists placing implants. Under current board rules, the board retains the authority to discipline any dentist who fails to meet the aforementioned standard of care. As healthcare professionals, I implore any dentist to become an expert in your field before risking your patient's safety. Your patients deserve no less. The board values any feedback on this or any matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David H. Yu" with "DDS, MS" written in smaller letters to the right.

David H. Yu, DDS, MS

Presiding Officer of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners



## AGENCY NEWS

### Fraud Alert 2025

On average, the agency receives five inquiries per day from individuals reporting contact with scammers posing as TSBDE representatives. Please remember, TSBDE staff will never request money or personal information. The agency does not collaborate with the FBI or issue threats of arrest or detainment. If you suspect a telephone call or correspondence from TSBDE is fraudulent, please notify us by emailing [fraud.alert@tsbde.texas.gov](mailto:fraud.alert@tsbde.texas.gov) or calling 737-363-2320 ext 101. For more information or to report fraudulent activity, please visit the [TSBDE website](#).

### TSBDE Accepting Applications for Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners is accepting applications for an open position on the Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia. The Board's Presiding Officer will review applications and announce their selection at the November 2025 meeting. Pursuant to Rule 100.12, the committee will require a general dentist who holds a level 1 sedation/anesthesia permit and no higher permit.

The purpose of the advisory committee is to analyze and report on de-identified data and associated trends concerning anesthesia-related deaths or incidents. The appointment is for a two year term. The committee typically meets one time per year either in person or via Zoom. For more information or to send your completed application, please email Wendy Richardson at [wrichardson@tsbde.texas.gov](mailto:wrichardson@tsbde.texas.gov).

Click here for the [downloadable application form](#).

**TSBDE will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025 in honor of Labor Day.**



## LICENSING

### Licensing Expo 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2025 Licensing Expo! This annual event provides onsite application processing for all recent hygiene and dental graduates. The agency served a grand total of 625 attendees during the two day event. We welcomed 320 hygiene and 305 dental applicants. This year we invited several dental and hygiene professional associations to set up booths in the waiting area to meet and interact with new licensees. TSBDE staff appreciates everyone who contributed to the success of this event!



*TSBDE LICENSING DIVISION AND STAFF*



*TSBDE STAFF*



## LICENSING

---

### Electronic Prescribing Waiver Update

Good news! You may now request and renew an electronic prescribing waiver through your online licensing account. Please log on to [your account](#) and follow the instructions provided.

Please use the TSBDE Public License Search link to verify your electronic prescribing waiver status. Dentists with an approved waiver will have its expiration date displayed under "Electronic Rx Waiver Expiration Date:" [TSBDE Public License Search](#)

---

### Fingerprint Renewal Requirement

Effective January 1, 2026, all licensees lacking a State Identification (SID) number in the agency's licensing database will be mandated to undergo a fingerprint background check as a prerequisite for license renewal. An individual's SID serves as a unique identifier during background screenings, particularly for licensure and employment purposes.

Consequently, individuals licensed prior to 2016 may not have a SID number in the agency's licensure database. The absence of a SID number precludes the agency from receiving notifications regarding any criminal history events. Licensees lacking requisite fingerprint information will be notified by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners ninety days prior to license expiration. The notification will be transmitted via the online licensing system.

The Board is authorized to request this information in accordance with rules 101.1(c)(6), 103.1(c)(10), and 114.2(b)(3), and Section 411.12504 of the Government Code, which permits the acquisition of fingerprints for criminal history background checks. A Frequently Asked Questions section will be on the TSBDE website by November 2025. TSBDE staff respectfully ask licensees to refrain from contacting the Board to verify the presence of their information in the database.





## **Board Meeting August 8, 2025**

### **Adopted Rules**

Rule 101.1 General Qualifications for Dental Licensure

Rule 101.2 Dental Licensure by Examination

Rule 103.1 General Qualifications for Hygiene Licensure

Rule 103.2 Hygiene Licensure for Examination

Rule 104.1 Continuing Education Requirements

Rule 104.2 Continuing Education Providers

Rule 114.6 General Qualifications for Registration or Certification

Rule 117.2 Dental Faculty Licensure

Rule 117.3 Hygiene Faculty Licensure



## DENTAL PRACTICE

---

### House Bill 4070: Orthodontic Devices

House Bill 4070 was enacted during the recent 89th legislative session. This legislation mandates that individuals or companies who sell orthodontic devices to patients in Texas must first ensure that these patients have undergone an in-person dental examination. According to the bill's analysis document, the absence of such an examination could allow patients to pursue orthodontic treatments without a proper evaluation, potentially leading to significant damage to their dental health.

### House Bill 1700: Teledentistry Update

House Bill 1700 was enacted during the recent 89th legislative session and it requires the agency to adopt rules related to a patient's consent to treatment, data collection, and data sharing for teledentistry dental services.

At the August 2025 meeting, the Board proposed an update to [rule 108.16](#) that requires a licensee to identify the patient, verify and authenticate the patients health history, obtain an informed consent and document acknowledgement of the risk and limitations of a) electronic/ digital communications, b) the potential for breach of confidentiality, c) the potential disruption of communications, and d) the types of activities permitted using teledentistry services.

The Board proposed update will be published in the Texas Register and posted on the TSBDE website. Please submit comments on the proposed rule to [official\\_rules\\_comments@tsbde.texas.gov](mailto:official_rules_comments@tsbde.texas.gov).

### Administration of Halcion (triazolam)

Important reminder! Pursuant to [rule 108.7\(16\)](#), a dentist must hold a Level 1 permit (Minimal Sedation permit) issued by the Board, to prescribe and/or administer Halcion (triazolam). A dentist should administer Halcion in an in-office setting. This rule has been in effect since 2021.



## My View: Clinical Minute

Part of the Board's mission is to protect the public to provide information services to licensees. In that spirit, I want to highlight three key reminders from the March 2025 Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia (ACDA) report:

### 1. Reversal Agents – Be mindful of drug duration

Because reversal agents can wear off before the original sedative does, putting patients at risk of **re-sedation**. The ACDA urges providers to maintain vigilant monitoring even after a reversal agent has been administered.

### 2. Medical Consult ≠ Medical Clearance

Medical consults are meant to inform, not delegate, clinical judgment. During my medical training, I realized that most physicians are unfamiliar with dental procedures and medications used. However, physician consults can still be valuable when they include basic details, for example:

*"My plan is to remove several teeth with IV sedation (likely Versed and Fentanyl)"*

*"My plan is to remove all the patient's teeth and place dental implants under deep sedation (likely Versed, Propofol, and Ketamine). I anticipate the procedure will take 2-3 hours."*

Simple language allows the physician to offer meaningful input, while the **final clearance decision rests with the treating dentist**.

### 3. Procedure Duration Matters

The ACDA emphasized that the **length and complexity of a case** must be clearly conveyed in consults and considered during treatment planning. A short extraction procedure is not the same as a 6-hour surgery involving multiple implants. Patient risk increases with increased time under sedation, and clear communication is key to ensuring informed decisions and safe care.

[Review the full ACDA 2025 report by clicking here](#)

Robert G. McNeill, DDS, MD, MBA  
Board Member, Anesthesia Committee





*Dr. David Yu, Andrew Maticka, Connan Hinch and Tara Alfonz*

Dr. Yu allowed the TSBDE investigations team to use his office to train our new investigators on how to conduct a sanitation inspection.



TSBDE staff attended Dr. Yu's party to celebrate his service to the agency and his retirement.



Dr. Yu and Ms. Lois Palermo were acknowledged for their years of service on the board.



Dr. David Yu, DDS, MS served as a TSBDE board member from 2017-2025 and as the Presiding Officer 2021-2025. Ms. Lois Palermo, RDH served as a board member from 2013 to 2025. We are grateful for their service.