



**Dental Hygiene Educators of Texas**  
**Dental Hygienist Local Anesthetic Recommendations**  
**August 8, 2023**

Ms. Casey Nichols  
Executive Director  
1801 Congress Avenue  
Suite 8.600  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Nichols and Texas State Board of Dental Examiners Members,

As the current President of the Dental Hygiene Educators of Texas (DHET), representing myself and all Texas dental hygiene educators, we support the administration of local anesthetic agent by a licensed dental hygienist as outlined in House Bill (HB) 3824. We respectfully submit the recommendation for the education of dental hygiene professionals and students for the administration of local anesthesia outlined below.

**INTRODUCTION**

The recommendations outlined in this document were developed by the Dental Hygiene Educators of Texas (DHET) ad-hoc Local Anesthetic Committee and approved by the DHET Board of Directors and leadership. DHET represents dental hygiene faculty members serving in CODA accredited institutions throughout Texas. DHET's mission statement: "As Dental Hygiene Educators who seek excellence through education, we as a group who promote the profession of dental hygiene are devoted to the development of curriculum that allows for the growth of the profession by providing continuous learning opportunities, collaborative resources for educators, and mentorship opportunities, while we develop the next generation of entry-level hygienists."

House Bill 2834 gives a Texas licensed dentist the authority to delegate the administration of local anesthetic by infiltration to a Texas licensed dental hygienist while under direct supervision of the dentist. The statute requires that the patient receiving local anesthetic administered by a dental hygienist is "at least 18 year of age; and is not sedated, or is sedated only using nitrous oxide-oxygen inhalation." In addition, the statute requires the dental hygienists to complete a "board-approved course of study designed to train dental hygienists to administer local anesthetic agent by infiltration", and pass a board-approved certification examination relating to the administration of a local anesthetic agent." Alternatively, dental hygienists are eligible for local anesthetic by infiltration certification if they were "authorized to administer a local anesthetic agent by: (1) a branch of the United States armed forces; or (2) another state with clinical and didactic education requirements substantially equivalent to the requirements of a course approved by the board."

**Definition**

Local anesthetic by infiltration means the deposition of a local anesthetic solution meant for the elimination of the sensation of pain by the local injection of a drug near the terminal nerve endings and not delivered as a nerve block.



## **INFORMED CONSENT**

DHET concurs with the Texas Dental Association's informed consent recommendation that "patients must be notified in advance of the infiltration injection of local anesthesia that the dentist delegated the local anesthetic infiltration injection(s) to a Texas-licensed dental hygienist holding a TSBDE-issued local anesthetic certificate. The patient shall have an opportunity to give informed consent prior to the procedure."

## **REPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

DHET concurs with the Texas Dental Association (TDA) recommendation that "Rule 22 Texas Administrative Code §108.6, *Report of Patient Death or Injury Requiring Hospitalization*, be amended to require licensed dental hygienists holding a TSBDE local anesthetic certificate to report a patient death or patient injury requiring hospitalization that may be a result of administering local infiltration anesthetic."

DHET concurs with the TDA recommendation that "the Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia created by Texas Occupation Code Chapter 258 Subchapter E and 22 Texas Administrative Code §100.12, *Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia*, include in its yearly *Report and Recommendations* any local anesthesia-related patient deaths or incidents involving the administration of local infiltration anesthesia by dental hygienists."

## **EDUCATION and EXAMINATION**

To qualify for a TSBDE-issued local anesthetic certification, there are two routes for certification:

1. A dental hygienist licensed in Texas must complete a TSBDE-approved continuing education (CE) course of study that includes specific didactic coursework and clinical training related to the administration of local anesthetic agents by infiltration, offered by an educational institution accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);
2. A dental hygiene student enrolled in a CODA accredited dental hygiene program in Texas must complete a dental hygiene curriculum that is equivalent to the TSBDE-approved didactic and clinical training course requirements related to the administration of local anesthetic by infiltration.

### **Local Anesthetic Training Requirements**

The local anesthetic dental hygiene curriculum or CE course of study must be approved by the TSBDE.

- A. The local anesthetic dental hygiene curriculum or CE course:
  1. Shall include dental hygienists who are licensed in Texas or students currently enrolled in a CODA accredited dental hygiene program;
  2. Shall be taught by faculty members of CODA-accredited institutions who hold a current Texas dental license or a Texas local anesthetic certificate;
  3. Shall include direct supervision by a dentist currently licensed in Texas;
  4. Shall consist of **32 hours** of formal education in the administration of local anesthetic agents that shall consist of 20 hours of didactic education and 12 hours of clinical education; and
  5. Shall require successful completion of maxillary and mandibular local anesthetic infiltration injections in all quadrants on live person(s) that are supervised by a faculty member of CODA-



accredited institutions who holds a current Texas dental license or a Texas local anesthetic certificate.

B. **Didactic requirements (20 hours)** shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Physiology and neurophysiology;
2. Head, neck, and oral anatomy;
3. Adult respiratory and circulatory physiology and related anatomy;
4. Emergency procedures
5. Recognition and management of local complications associated with local anesthetic injections
6. Recognition and management of systemic local anesthetic toxicity related to the administration of local anesthetics
7. Medical history and evaluation procedures to include considerations for medically complex patients;
8. Physiological and psychological aspects of pain control
9. Pharmacology of agents used in local anesthetics and vasoconstrictors, including drug interactions and incompatibilities;
10. Indications and contraindications for use of local anesthetic;
11. Recommended dosages of local anesthetic;
12. Selection and preparation of the armamentaria and record keeping for administering local anesthetic agents via infiltration;
13. Safety and infection control procedures with regard to local infiltration anesthetic techniques and proper disposal of sharps; and
14. Post-operative care and instructions.

C. **Clinical education requirements (12 hours)** shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Selection and preparation of the armamentaria for administering local anesthetic agents;
2. Demonstration of proper infection control techniques regarding local anesthetic agents and proper disposal of sharps;
3. Demonstration of proper evaluation of a person's health status, taking and assessing vital signs and monitoring the person's physical status while under the effects of local anesthetic;
4. Demonstration of the proper techniques for the administration of local anesthetic by local infiltration on a live person:
  - a. Basic technique;
  - b. Aspiration;
  - c. Slow rate of injection; and
  - d. Minimum effective dosage and maximum recommended dose.
5. Clinical experience demonstrating successful completion of maxillary and mandibular local anesthetic infiltration injections on a live person that are supervised by a faculty member of CODA-accredited institutions who holds a current Texas dental license or Texas local anesthetic certificate.

D. Examinations

1. **Each dental hygienist or dental hygiene student shall pass a TSBDE-approved examination on**



the material covered in the didactic section of the training with a minimum passing score of 75% before continuing to the clinical section of the training on a live person. Those who do not pass the didactic competency examination may be offered remediation and retesting before the start of the clinical training on a live person.

2. Each dental hygienist or dental hygiene student shall pass a clinical competency evaluation including a demonstration of satisfactorily performing local anesthetic infiltration injections on a live person.
3. The dental hygienist or dental hygiene student must pass a TSBDE-approved certification examination relating to the administration of a local anesthetic agent by infiltration. The certification examination shall be administered by the CODA-accredited dental hygiene program after the dental hygienist or dental hygiene students has successfully completed the local anesthetic curriculum or CE course of study.

### **TSBDE Certification Application Requirements and Fee**

To be eligible for local anesthetic by infiltration certification issued by the TSBDE, the dental hygiene applicant must:

1. Successfully complete 32 hours of TSBDE-approved clinical and didactic education in the administration of local anesthetics taken through a CODA-accredited educational institution, including passage of a written examination and competency-based clinical examination;
2. Pay all application, licensing, and certification fees required by law and TSBDE rules and regulations;
3. Show proof of current completion of an American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers
4. Pass a TSBDE-approved certification examination relating to the administration of a local anesthetic agent by infiltration.

### **Local Anesthetic by Infiltration Renewal**

Local anesthetic by infiltration certification is automatically renewed biennially with the license renewal for a dental hygienist in good standing and with no registered incidents involving the administration of local anesthetic by infiltration on the *Report of Patient Death or Injury Requiring Hospitalization*.

The overall goal of DHET is” to provide the communities Texas with professionals who are lifelong learners, who provide comprehensive competent oral care with integrity, respect, and compassion for the overall health of those around them.” DHET is committed to quality educational standards and training for all dental hygienists in Texas.

Sincerely,

Jane Cotter, RDH, MS, CTTS, FAADH  
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