

Texas State Board of Dental Examiners
Attn: Casey Nichols, Executive Director
1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 8.600
Austin, Texas 78701

April 21, 2024

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

As the current President of the Texas Dental Hygienists' Association (TDHA), representing myself and all Texas licensed dental hygienists, I want to express our support for the proposed Rule 22 TAC §115.10 regarding administration of local infiltration anesthetic agent by a licensed dental hygienist.

TDHA supports implementation of the proposed March 22, 2024 rules which will require licensed dental hygienists to successfully complete 32 hours of TSBDE-approved clinical and didactic education through a CODA-accredited educational institution overseen by a Texas licensed dentist. This will also include passage of a written and competency-based clinical examination to meet all requirements to apply and obtain certification from the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners.

TDHA supports the additional 2-hour requirement for continuing education every two years in the administration of, and/or medical emergencies associated with, local anesthesia procedures to assure public safety. Dental hygienists will remain responsible for documenting satisfactory completion of all required continuing education courses.

TDHA wants to express our appreciation for the opportunity to work collaboratively with TSBDE and other stakeholders during the rule-making process. TDHA commends the Board for its continuing efforts to protect the public and maintain the highest standards of dental and dental hygiene practice in our state.

We look forward to the fall implementation of the proposed rules to create an environment where patients can receive compassionate and comprehensive oral care from highly trained and competent dental hygiene professionals. If you have questions, please reach out to me at the email listed below.

Sincerely,



Shawna Greer, RDH, BSDH, MAADH, FADHA
President, Texas Dental Hygienists' Association
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