

Newsletter

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

March 2025



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A Message from the Presiding Officer, Dr. David H. Yu

The Significance of a Strong Board

Leading the board has given me firsthand insight in the importance of having a strong dental board. A strong board is one that is well-managed, influential, and has a diverse range of expertise. To accomplish the board's mission, it requires adequate resources and high-level leadership. By upholding high standards of care and expanding access to dental services, the board helps to ensure a more level playing field for every dental professional. The mission of the board is to protect the public by upholding the highest standards to protect the public, ensure licensing qualifications, investigate public complaints, and engage in thoughtful and pragmatic rule-making based on legislative statute.

The board protects the public, ensuring that dental professionals meet the standard of care as well as ensuring that those allowed to practice are qualified. The board also maintains high standards by receiving complaints, reviewing their merits, and enforcing any behavior that falls outside a professional's standard of care. If a dental professional operates outside of the Texas Dental Practice Act the board is obligated to work on the public's behalf and may need to take enforcement action.

The first line of protection is licensing. The incredible amount of research, vetting, and verification by board staff ensures that only qualified individuals are allowed to care for the public. Board members are also involved in regional board examinations, which upholds high clinical standards in order to practice in Texas. In addition, the board sets the minimal standards for continuing education which promotes consistent professional development. The practice of continuing education encourages licensees to stay current with new trends and rules in dentistry. This assures patients that any professional with an active Texas license will provide the highest quality care to them.

Per rule [§108.3](#), all dentists are required to post notice that complaints against them can be directed to the board. This creates accountability for all licensees and ensures that the public has a mechanism to report substandard care. When the board investigates, we do so fairly and respectfully to the patient and the dental health care professional. This is to assure the public that licensees are held accountable, which builds trust in the dental profession as a whole.

As dentistry evolves, rules and regulations must adapt. The board establishes rules in alignment with legislative intent, playing a crucial role in ensuring that licensees comply with the provisions of the Dental Practice Act. Rule-making is an important duty by the board with stakeholders playing an important role in the rule-making process. Your voice matters. Regularly check the board website and the TSBDE newsletter for new and updated rules.

A strong dental board builds public confidence that dental professionals are held to the highest standards both in terms of practice and ethics. Earning a Texas license is a hard-earned privilege, and as a board, we recognize that you value and uphold it with the utmost seriousness. The board appreciates the importance of what you do in providing exceptional oral health care to Texans. Similarly, the public also appreciates that they are protected by a strong board that holds all dental health care licensees to high standards. It is my privilege to represent our board, a strong and responsive board for you and the people of Texas.

Respectfully Submitted,



AGENCY NEWS

NEW PHONE NUMBERS

(737) 363-2320

TSBDE has a new phone number! Please call the main line and follow the directory prompts.

You can also reach us via email! [Agency Contacts](#)

TSBDE Seal and Logo

Please refrain from using the TSBDE seal or logo without first receiving express permission from the agency. The unauthorized use of the agency's seal, logo, or letterhead may result in a formal fraud complaint being submitted to the Office of the Attorney General.

RDA: Fraudulent Tier Pay Scale Sheet

A dental assistant educator recently reported that her students received a handout outlining RDA tier levels and pay scales, which was purportedly approved by TSBDE. Please note, this document has not undergone review or approval by TSBDE, as the agency does not provide or endorse pay scales for any dental professional.

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) is always striving to improve our operations and we could use your help! Let us know how we are doing and how we can get better in the future. Please visit our customer satisfaction survey in the link below to provide your input to TSBDE leadership. Please note, your response will be completely anonymous. We would love to hear your opinion and ideas! Thank you for your time and consideration.

[TSBDE Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

The information expressed in the newsletter is created or compiled by agency staff. It does not reflect the official position of the board or its members, and it should not be construed as legal advice.



LICENSING

NEW! UPDATED PUBLIC LICENSE SEARCH

TSBDE recently upgraded the Public License Search function on our website. The newly updated search function now includes sedation permit and level for dentists, local infiltration anesthesia status for hygienists, disciplinary orders and improved search functionality. If you have trouble accessing the new search feature- try clearing your browser cache. This site is updated every 24-48 hours.

<https://ls.tsbde.texas.gov/index.php>

Dental Assistant Appreciation week is March 2-8th, 2025

Dental Hygiene Appreciation week April 6-12th, 2025

2025 Licensing Expo Info for Recent Graduates

[Dental Hygiene Expo - June 30, 2025](#)

[Dental Expo - July 1, 2025](#)

Board Meeting February 21, 2025

Proposed and Adopted Rules

[Rule 102.1 Fees](#)

[Rule 108.42 Obtaining a Permit](#)

[Rule 111.1 Additional Continuing Education Required](#)

[Rule 113.2 X-Ray Laboratories](#)

[Rule 114.12 Continuing Education for Certificate Holders](#)

DENTAL PRACTICE

IMPLANTS

During the February 2025 Board meeting, the Dental Practice Committee discussed dental implants and the associated standard of care. Each year, TSBDE receives numerous complaints concerning complications arising from dental implants. It is important to note that when a dentist performs any procedure, including implants, they are expected to adhere to the same standards as a specialist in that particular field.

What Leads to Disciplinary Action?

I often get asked, "What are the most common reasons dentists face disciplinary action before the board?" A recent [study](#) in The Journal of the American Dental Association provided some answers, focusing specifically on general dentists in Texas. By analyzing 1,056 disciplinary actions over a 16.5-year period, the study highlighted key areas where dentists most often run into trouble.

Here's what they found:

- Recordkeeping (39%) – The most frequent issue! Many cases involved missing treatment notes, incomplete medical histories, and failure to document vital signs or informed consent. Board rules for what is required in the patient record are available by [clicking here](#).
- Treatment-related infractions (23%) – These included failure to meet the standard of care, overtreatment, and iatrogenic trauma.
- Ethics and professionalism violations (23%) – Improper billing, prescription errors, and personal conduct issues were common.
- Diagnostic errors (9%) – Misdiagnosis, failure to refer, or inadequate diagnostic workups led to disciplinary actions.
- Licensing and renewal issues (6%) – Some dentists simply forgot to renew their licenses.

What Can We Learn?

If you want to avoid these pitfalls, a proactive approach is key:

- ✓ Stay on top of documentation—if it's not in the chart, it didn't happen!
- ✓ Keep patient care at the center of everything you do.
- ✓ Know the regulations, and don't let licensing renewals slip through the cracks.

At TSBDE, we encourage every Texas dentist to reflect on these findings and implement best practices to maintain the highest standards of care. Let's work together to keep Texas dentistry strong, ethical, and patient-centered!

As an avid hockey player, I understand the importance of adhering to the rules to avoid penalties. In my role as the Chair of the Licensing Committee, I want to ensure that everyone remains compliant and out of the penalty box. If it has been a while since you looked at the board rules, I encourage you to review them on the TSBDE's website by [clicking this link](#).

[Click here to view the study in JADA](#)

Robert G. McNeill, DDS, MD, MBA
Chair, Licensing Committee



Board members with UT pre-dental students



Dr. Yu with Robert Black, the Governor's Chief of Staff.



TSBDE staff 2024



Executive Director, Ms. Casey Nichols, Deputy Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Leticia Kappel and Dr. Yu attended the House Appropriations Committee.



Dr. Yu and his daughter visit with Governor Abbott.



Dr. Yu visits the Capitol.



UT Health
San Antonio

Magazines of the Schools
at UT Health San Antonio

The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio



'We make a life by what we give'

For alumnus David Yu, DDS, MS, the bond with the School of Dentistry is lifelong. A supporter of the programs that shaped his career and mentor to the next generation of dental professionals, Yu exemplifies the power...

Magazines of the Schools at UT Health San Antonio / Feb 7

[click here to read the full article](#)