

Newsletter

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

May 2024



Table of Contents

Announcements.....	Pages 1-2
Reminders.....	Pages 3-8
Important Information & Updates	Pages 9-11
Recently Adopted Rules & Survey.....	Page 12



The First Line of Public Protection

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners has a specific mission: to protect the public health and safety and promote high quality and safe dental care by providing enforcement, licensing, peer assistance, and related information services to licensees and their patients. I consider that the first line of protection is licensing dental professionals that are highly qualified to provide care to the citizens of Texas. The licensing division is responsible for nearly 90,000 licenses, including 20,600 dentists, 16,000 hygienists, 52,000 dental assistants and 15,000 dentist sedation holders.

There are specific rules that are used as guidelines for the licensing division to consider when issuing licenses. Issuance and renewal of licenses is a serious matter of public protection. To do so 45,000 times a year requires an incredible number of resources and dedication on the part of the TSBDE licensing staff. Initial licensure is especially time-consuming with expected delays. The board staff must verify a candidate's competency with the regional exams the applicant took within 7 years, graduating from a CODA-approved program, and passing background checks. The frustration from the prospective licensee was not lost on the director of licensing, Ms. Christine Mendez. In 2017, she pioneered a ground-breaking initiative— the TSBDE Licensing Expo.

Each year, TSBDE invites dental professional graduates to the Licensing Expo to have the opportunity to receive their license that same day. Licenses are fast-tracked due to TSBDE's amazing staff, and the new licensee is then able to practice the very next day. This requires due diligence and coordination from both TSBDE and the licensing applicants. Graduates are required to complete all checklist items prior to the Expo. The Expo is a prime example of the unified effort from all the board staff in handling hundreds of new applications, exemplifying the all-hands-on-deck approach.

Thanks to Ms. Mendez's ingenuity, the Texas Dental Board leads the way in dental licensing across the country. Last year, 278 dentists and 284 hygienists were issued licenses at the Expo. The wild success of the Expo has led other states to attempt to replicate the idea. This year, the board is adding another dental professional to the Expo: the inclusion of dental assistant graduates.

Dental Hygiene Graduates Monday, June 17, 2024

Dental Graduates Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Dental Assistant Graduates Wednesday June 19, 2024

As the board is tasked with issuing a growing number of licenses, the Expo helps to alleviate some of the congestion in processing applications. It is a prime example of how innovative thinking can benefit the whole community, including new graduates, board staff and ultimately, the public. I laud Ms. Mendez for her vision, the licensing division for their hard-work and the entire board staff for their support that are all in harmony with our mission, "to protect public health."

In Service.

David H. Yu, DDS, MS

Presiding Officer of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

LICENSING EXPO

TSBDE is pleased to announce a three-day licensing expo event!

The 2024 Licensing Expo will provide onsite application processing for all recent dental graduates! Applicants have the opportunity to walk-in with the required documentation for on-site processing and approval.

Monday, June 17, 2024: Dental Hygiene Graduates

Tuesday, June 18, 2024: Dental Graduates

Wednesday, June 19, 2024: Dental Assistant Registrations

Detailed information can be found here: [EXPO](#)

Anesthesia Advisory Committee Report

The TSBDE Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia (ACDA) met on March 1, 2024, to discuss resolved complaints involving anesthesia related issues from FY 2023. The ACDA reviews de-identified data that remains confidential throughout the review process. The ACDA's function is to spot trends and provide recommendation and guidance to the TSBDE on anesthesia related issues.

The full report may be found here: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/resources/public-reports/>

Rule 108.11: Display of Registration

As a reminder, dentists and hygienists are required to display a current registration certificate in each office where they provide dental services. If you provide services at more than one location, duplicate registrations may be displayed. [Rule 108.11](#)

NEW RULE! Administration of Local Infiltration Anesthesia

At the May 2024 TSBDE meeting, the Board voted to adopt rule 115.10, which was previously posted in the Texas Register on March 22, 2024. The new rule allows the administration of local infiltration anesthetic agent by a dental hygienist. The Board and staff would like to thank all of the licensees and stakeholders who provided input on this new rule. The rule is available for review here:

[Rule 115.10 Administration of Local Infiltration Anesthesia](#)

Registered dental hygienists must obtain a Texas permit to administer local infiltration anesthesia in the state of Texas. Please note that TSBDE staff will not accept applications until after September 1, 2024. The agency is in the process of updating its licensing database with a third-party vendor to include the local anesthesia permit information. TSBDE will notify licensees when the agency is ready to begin accepting applications and the information will be on the TSBDE website.

REMINDERS

Electronic Prescribing Waivers: Frequently Asked Questions

Please note the Electronic Prescribing Waiver Form was updated in February 2024. The updated form removes the requirement that a dentist submit supporting documentation describing the circumstances necessitating a waiver, and instead requires a dentist to attest to the circumstances necessitating a waiver. Please ensure you are submitting the updated form, which can be found on the website here: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/e-prescribing-waiver/>

1. How can I check the status of my waiver?

You can always check your profile and see the updated expiration date. <https://tsbde.texas.gov/e-prescribing-waiver/>.

License Number	
License Rank	Licensed Dentist
License Status	Active
License Issue Date	05/15/2013
License Expiration Date	08/31/2024
Electronic Rx Waiver Expiration Date	11/19/2024

2. Do I need to select the initial waiver request box if my waiver has expired?

If you've previously had a waiver, you will need to select the renewed waiver box.

3. When can I reapply for a waiver?

You can submit a waiver form within 30 days of your current waiver's expiration.

For additional information please visit: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/e-prescribing-waiver/>



The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) would like to connect with Texas educators and hear updates from dental, hygiene and dental assisting programs. The Board invites a representative from your university, school or program to provide a brief ten (10) minute presentation at an upcoming meeting. Board members are interested in learning about class sizes, curriculum, graduation statistics, educational concerns, and how the Board can better assist educators. The Board will schedule two representatives to speak per meeting on a first come, first served basis. Speakers have the option to attend in person or virtually.

The TSBDE Board meets on a quarterly basis. We have **one** opening left on **November 8, 2024**.

If you are interested in addressing the Board or if you have additional questions, please contact Wendy Richardson at wrichardson@tsbde.texas.gov. Please provide your name, title, school/program affiliation and your preferred Board meeting date.

Dental Hygiene Educators: Local Infiltration Anesthesia

- * The didactic portion of the local anesthesia courses must be no less than twenty (20) hours and the clinical portion must be no less than twelve (12) hours.
- * The educational institution must be accredited by CODA.
- * The program must be overseen by a Texas licensed dentist who is a member of the CODA-accredited institution and who has experience teaching the administration of local infiltration anesthesia. The Texas licensed dentist is not required to teach the course.
- * Qualified registered dental hygiene faculty may teach the course, but live patient or hands-on simulation clinical experiences must be performed under the direct supervision of the Texas-licensed dentist associated with the course.

The dentist must be physically present in the facility and aware of the patient's physical status and well-being.

ANESTHESIA

Jurisprudence Assessment for Dentists with a Sedation Permit:

The Jurisprudence Assessment for Dentists with a Sedation Permit was in effect as of November 2020. At this point if you have an approved permit, you should have completed the Jurisprudence Assessment for Dentists with a Sedation Permit at your highest permitted level. This included dentists with only the Nitrous Permit. This assessment must be retaken every 5 years as long as the dentist holds an approved permit. You may view the Jurisprudence Assessment for Dentists with a Sedation Permit at

<https://tsbde.texas.gov/licensing/jurisprudence-assessment/>

Jurisprudence Assessment for Dentists without a Sedation Permit:

If you do not hold a level of sedation, you are required to take the Jurisprudence for Dentists without sedation every four (4) years. You may view the Jurisprudence Assessment for Dentists with a Sedation Permit at <https://tsbde.texas.gov/licensing/jurisprudence-assessment/>

Dentists Sedation Permit Applications:

Information regarding the permit applications can be found on the TSBDE website at <https://tsbde.texas.gov/licensing/dentists/anesthesia-privileges-and-applications/>

Applications and information regarding the Sedation of High Risk and Sedation of Pediatric Patients can be found on TSBDES website at <https://tsbde.texas.gov/licensing/dentists/sedation-of-high-risk-and-pediatric-patients/>

Permit drop request:

If you no longer use one or all of your permits and wish to have them removed from your record, please visit our website at <http://www.tsbde.texas.gov> under the Licensing Tab, Dentist, Anesthesia, select “[Drop Level of Sedation](#)”, and click on “[Request to Drop a Level of Sedation](#)”. You must complete and submit a separate drop request form for each level of sedation you wish to remove. This includes the Sedation of Pediatric Patients and Sedation of High-Risk Patients. You will receive a confirmation email once the permit is removed.

Dentists may view/confirm approved permits by conducting a Public License Search on themselves, <https://ls.tsbde.texas.gov/index.php> or by printing a new Dental License Certificate via your online portal account.

ANESTHESIA

Can dentists delegate the administration of any sedative drugs to the dental assistant?

Answer: Tex. Occ. Code § 258.001(4) prohibits a dentist from delegating the administration of any sedative drug to any person who is not a dentist, nurse anesthetist or MD anesthesiologist. Tex. Occ. Code § 258.001(4) (<https://tsbde.texas.gov/laws-rules/dental-practice-act-tsbde-rules/>) the authority to an individual to administer a local anesthetic agent, inhalation sedative agent, parenteral sedative agent, or general anesthetic agent, including as a teledentistry dental service as that term is defined by Section 111.001, if the individual is not licensed as:

(A) a dentist with a permit issued by the board for the procedure being performed, if a permit is required;

(B) a certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed by the Texas Board of Nursing, only if the delegating dentist holds a permit issued by the board for the procedure being performed, if a permit is required; or

(C) a physician anesthesiologist licensed by the Texas Medical Board;

If any questions regarding anesthesia permits, please contact the Anesthesia Specialist at either: (512) 305-6725 or anesthesiainfo@tsbde.texas.gov.

LICENSING VERIFICATIONS

[Click here](#) to verify a dental hygiene license

[Click here](#) to verify a registered dental assistant

[Click here](#) to verify a dental license

ASA CLASSIFICATIONS

BY ROBERT G. MCNEILL, D.D.S., M.D.

One of the common challenges we see at the board while reviewing complaints is that charts will often lack an appropriate selection of the American Society of Anesthesiologists' (ASA) Physical Status classification. The purpose of the system is to assess and communicate a patient's pre-anesthesia medical co-morbidities. Board rule 110.13 requires the documentation of the ASA classification on the preoperative checklist for the administration of nitrous oxide and Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 sedation/anesthesia. The classification may also determine if you may need a high-risk sedation permit per board rule 110.16 to treat ASA 3 or 4 patients with sedation levels 2, 3 or 4. The following are some common examples of ASA classifications:

ASA Physical Status Classification	Definition	Adult Examples	Pediatric Examples
ASA I	A person in good health.	A person who doesn't smoke tobacco products and minimally uses alcohol.	A child in a healthy BMI range for their age.
ASA II	A mild but well-managed or treated condition.	A person who is pregnant, has a mild lung condition, may smoke tobacco products or drinks alcohol socially or has overweight.	A child with mild asthma, a well-managed abnormal heart rhythm (dysrhythmias) or mild obstructive sleep apnea.
ASA III	A serious condition that has an impact on a person's overall health.	A person who has a BMI greater than 40, alcohol use disorder or an implanted pacemaker.	A child with severe asthma, a heart abnormality, epilepsy or severe obstructive sleep apnea.
ASA IV	A severe condition that's life-threatening.	A person with a severe infection (sepsis), is on dialysis regularly or has severe heart disease.	A child with congestive heart failure, is dependent on a ventilator or is in shock.
ASA V	A life-threatening condition that needs immediate surgery to increase survival odds.	A person with an opening in the top part of their aorta (ruptured aneurysm), brain bleeding or multiorgan dysfunction.	A child with brain bleeding (intracranial hemorrhage), respiratory failure or severe liver disease.
ASA VI	A deceased person who is an organ donor.	The adult is deceased.	The child is deceased.

What is ASA classification?

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status classification system is a grading system to determine the health of a person before a surgical procedure that requires anesthesia.

Registered Dental Assistants

A dental assistant may not position or expose dental x-rays unless the dental assistant holds a dental assistant radiology registration issued by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. To be eligible for a registration, an applicant must have;

- Paid all application, examination, and licensing fees,
- Have graduated from an accredited high school or hold a certificate of high school equivalency, General Equivalency Diploma (GED),
- Submit fingerprints for the retrieval of criminal history record information,
- Have successfully completed a current hands-on course in basic life support (BLS), and have taken and passed a course of instruction and an examination administered by an approved TSBDE provider ([click here](#) for the current list of approved courses/exams), or
- Hold a current certificate from the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) and have taken and passed the [TSBDE Jurisprudence Assessment](#) within one year from the date the application is submitted.
- Complete a course in human trafficking prevention approved by the executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and submit proof of completion with their application. This will be in addition to all required documentation that needs to be submitted to the TSBDE. For information on where to find approved courses, please [click here](#).

****In order for TSBDE to process the registration application, please ensure that you have taken a course and examination by a [TSBDE approved program](#).****



A Message from the Board Secretary, Dr. Robert G. McNeill, DDS, MD, MBA

At a recent board meeting we have had several licensees lose their ability to practice based on receiving felony convictions for a DUI/DWI with a minor in the vehicle. Others had a suspension based on non-compliance with substance abuse recovery programs. It is difficult to see our colleagues have their career and lives torn apart. As a profession we are called to help one another and seek care for ourselves when needed so that we can provide the best care for our patients. We have recently removed stigmatizing questions from our licensing and renewal applications to remove barriers to seeking help.

The conversation on mental health and well-being has become a priority within healthcare. Recently the American Dental Association hosted a Health and Well-being Summit that included the Federation of State Medical Boards, the American Medical Association, State Dental Boards, State Dental Associations, and many other groups interested in finding solutions to the mental health problem.

We encourage our dental family to continue to check in with your colleagues. If you are struggling, we encourage you to reach out for help. There is hope and change is possible. One example, the President-elect of the American Dental Association has just celebrated 25 years in recovery from substance abuse. Change and healing is possible but it requires you to take the first step.

Be well,

Robert G. McNeill, DDS, MD, MBA
Board Secretary

Mental Health Awareness Month
A Message from the Board Secretary, Dr. Robert G. McNeill, DDS, MD, MBA
and Presiding Officer Dr. David H. Yu, DDS, MS

[Click here for an important video](#)



Transcript:

Dr. Yu:

Greetings, I am David Yu, the Presiding Officer of the Dental Board. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and it's with pleasure that I present Dr. Bob McNeill, our board secretary. He also serves as the board's liaison to the Professional Recovery Network and is actively involved with the ADA Dental Team Wellness Advisory Committee. He's a well-regarded advocate for mental health within our profession and I value Dr. McNeill's words of support and encouragement.

Dr. McNeill:

Thank you Dr. Yu for allowing me to share this very important message. I'm Dr. Bob McNeill, the chair of licensing for the Dental board. Recently, we've made changes in how we ask questions in mental health issues including substance use issues. As a board, we want you to get help if you need help. In order for us to take care of our patients best, we need to be in good form. We (the board) don't want to stand in the way of you getting help and we expect if you need help, we need you to get it. Your friends, your family, your colleagues and most importantly, your patients need you to be in good form. This is a blue couch. At my office, we have dentists come in and they sit on the blue couch. We talk about clinical issues. We also talk about life issues. Do that for yourself. Do that for others. Call a colleague and take them to lunch and see how they are doing. Let them know how you're doing. We are in this together. Our patients are best served, our families are best served, we are all best served when we're in this together. Be well friends.

If you or someone you know is struggling with a mental health condition, please visit MentalHealthTx.org for education and treatment opportunities for those coping with mental health conditions and those who support them. This resource is sponsored by the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and is designed to equip you with knowledge, resources, and a sense of hope for the future – for yourself or someone else you care about. To learn more, please visit mentalhealth.org.



The Professional Recovery Network (PRN) is the peer assistance program for the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE). PRN helps to identify, assist, support, monitor and advocate for Texas-licensed dental professionals who may be struggling with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. PRN adheres to a dual philosophy that provides an opportunity for confidential recovery while protecting the public from unsafe professional practice.

- ▶ PRN accepts self-referrals, third-party referrals, and referrals from TSBDE. All concerned third-party sources are kept confidential.
- ▶ Information about a participant's enrollment in the PRN program is kept strictly confidential.
- ▶ If you or a dental colleague are experiencing impairment due to substance use or mental illness, the Professional Recovery Network is here to provide **support** and an opportunity for **confidential recovery**.

PRN Helpline: 800-727-5152

Visit us online: www.txprn.com

click for www.txprn.com

Board Meeting May 3, 2024

Adopted Rules

[Rule 114.7 Exemption from Licensure for Certain Military Service Members and Military Spouses \(Dental Assistants\)](#)

[Rule 103.10 Exemption from Licensure for Certain Military Service Members and Military Spouses \(Hygienists\)](#)

[Rule 101.14 Exemption from Licensure for Certain Military Service Members and Military Spouses \(Dentists\)](#)

[Rule 101.6 Dental Licensing for Military Service Members, Military Veterans, and Military Spouses](#)

[Rule 102.1 Fees](#)

[Rule 114.5 Coronal Polishing](#)



TSBDE BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF

The Mission of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners is to protect the public health and safety and promote high quality and safe dental care by providing enforcement, licensing, peer assistance, and related information services to licensees and their patients.

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!:

[TSBDE Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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.