

KANSAS DENTAL BOARD

January 2009

Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Ste 564S, Topeka, KS 66612-1572

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...Our mission is to protect the public

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2009 Board meetings: location Landon State Office Bdg. April 10, Rm 106; July 24 -Rm 108; Oct. 30 - Rm 108

Statistics 1/06/09					
Total Dentists	2080	Total Hygienists	2206	Level I Sedation Permits	25
Active	1818	Active	2032	Level II Sedation Permits	58
Practicing in KS	1402	Practicing in KS	1542	Extended Care I Permits	32
				Extended Care II Permits	61

RENEWALS ALMOST OVER

Most renewals are in. If you have not renewed by March 2, your license will be cancelled. Those who delay renewing until Feb 1 will have to pay a \$500 penalty in addition to renewal fees. Up until March 1, you can still renew online. You will be automatically cancelled if not renewed by March 1.

NOV 7, 2008 BOARD MEETING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Board Orders are posted on the website, select "Board Actions" under the "What's New" heading. No actions were taken at this board meeting.

INTERESTED IN BEING A WREB EXAMINER?

Western Regional Examining Board, WREB, is interested in having examiners for both the dental and hygiene clinical exams for the 2010 testing period. If you are not a board member, former board member, or teacher you will need to provide a CV or resume and two professional references to the board, and have five years of active practice in Kansas. If you are interested, send those items in and the board will consider them for approval to WREB. Some of our board members are CRDTS examiners, and two are also WREB examiners. It is an opportunity to become more involved in the profession by learning the technical issues of examining and working with other examiners from around the country. If you are interested, go to the WREB website to read details, www.wreb.org.

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Most investigations do not result in a discipline of the dentist or dental hygienist. Often cases are closed with no action due to many reasons. Among the most common closed cases are those in which there is simply a misunderstanding between the dentist and patient. Perhaps an unsatisfied patient complains, but the issue does not involve a serious practice mistake; sometimes there is simply not enough evidence to confirm a violation exists.

There are situations in which licensees receive letters from the Dental Board that address issues of concern, and these do not rise to the level of a discipline. In order to inform all licensees, some of the more recent letters of concern will be summarized.

Recently a letter was sent to a dentist where the patient had mentioned an assistant doing a bite adjustment after a filling. In his response, the dentist confirmed that his assistant had performed the adjustment. There was concern that a dental assistant may have used a high speed drill on enamel of the tooth and therefore placed the dentist in violation of the practice act.

In another case, patients of the same family were receiving similar treatment. The dentist was handed a chart for the wrong family member and performed a crown preparation on the wrong tooth of the patient. The dentist was warned to check charts carefully for patient identity and accuracy prior to beginning treatment.

Another complaint was from a patient who suffered significant pain after a root canal, and was eventually sent to an endodontist. There was no evidence in the record that the patient had been advised of potential complications. The dentist was cautioned that it is best to describe all complications to a patient.

INSPECTIONS – CONTINUING ISSUES OF NONCOMPLIANCE

Most dental offices are compliant with the sanitation regulations; however, there are always a few who have problems. The most common violations that require correction are compliance with keeping instruments bagged, and with spore testing.

Even though 71-1-18 Sterilization and Sanitation has been in place for over ten years, there are still a few regulations that are misunderstood. It is important for dentists to be aware that fines and/or action on their license can be taken if there is repeated non-compliance. In this newsletter bagging and sterilization of instruments as well as spore testing will be discussed. Portions of 71-1-18 have been copied below.

(B) Heat-stable dental instruments shall be routinely sterilized between patient use by one of the following methods:

(i) Steam under pressure autoclaves; (ii) heat plus pressurized chemical (iii) vapor chemclave; (iv) prolonged dry heat exposure; (v) dry heat convection sterilizers; (vi) ethylene oxide sterilizers

(E) When sterilizing the heat-stable instruments or devices listed in paragraphs (b)(3)(D)(i) through (ix), each instrument or device shall be placed in a closed bag or container for sterilization and thereafter maintained in that bag or container until immediately before use.

There are three basic categories of items used in the operator; (1) heat safe sterilizable instruments, (2) disposable items and (3) items that cannot be placed in an autoclave but are not considered disposable. (E.g. panoramic teeth positioners, cheek retractors.) Items in group 3 can be placed in an approved cold sterilant, items in group 2 are thrown away and all items in group one are to be placed in a bag or cassette, sealed, sterilized and then kept in that sealed bag or container until immediately before use. Not only does this protocol help to insure universal precautions but it also serves to reinforce to the patient the dental team's attention to sterilization AND provides an important "chain of events", if needed, to help protect the dentist legally if accused of causing a patient's infection or illness.

NOTE: *An exception is allowed in the storage of orthodontic "hinged instruments". Those items are to be sterilized as described but are not required, thereafter, to be kept sealed in that same bag or cassette. It is permissible for those instruments to be kept in a closed container. Instruments should be removed with universal precautions in mind. Any breach of that protocol would require the entire contents of the container be re-sterilized.*

Opening bags or cassettes and placing instruments on a tray or a counter before the patient is present is a violation. If "sterile instruments" are set up for multiple patients ahead of time or instruments removed and set up before breaks; a violation has occurred.

Spore testing is required to validate the effectiveness of the sterilizing device.

(C) Biological spore testing devices shall be used on each sterilization unit after each six days of use, but not less often than each month, to verify that all pathogens have been killed. A clear and concise log of the results is to be kept readily accessible in the dental office for three years.

Most offices use a third party service to process spore tests, although an in-office incubator system is permitted. Be certain when using an in-office system to ALWAYS include a control. In general, the spore tests should be run weekly but if the office is only seeing patients three days/week then every other week is acceptable. If the office is open two days per week then tests should be done every third week and so on.

Regardless of how few days the office might be open a spore test must be done once a month. If you have a satellite office open one day/month, spore tests are to be done once a month.

JURISPRUDENCE EXAM QUESTION

True or False? Before sterilization, all instruments shall be decontaminated to remove all visible surface contamination by a thorough scrubbing with soap and water or detergent, or by using a mechanical device including an ultrasonic cleaner. ANSWER: True. See KAR 71-1-18(b)(3) The latest Dental Practice Act can be downloaded from the website, www.kansas.gov/kdb.

STUDENT EXTERNSHIP REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT

The regulations pertaining to dental and hygiene students practicing in conjunction with a student program are now in effect. They are at K.A.R 71-9-1 and 4, and 71-10-1 and 4. You can read them in the Dental Practices Act online, www.kansas.gov/kdb. Applications will be sent to surrounding dental and dental hygiene schools.

ANESTHESIA REGULATIONS

The anesthesia regulations were sent back to the Regulatory Review committee for more refinement at the Public hearing of Nov 7, 2008.

STATUS OF UNLICENSED PERSONNEL AND TEETH BLEACHING

A regulation has been drafted and is in the process of being reviewed by the Attorney General's office regarding teeth bleaching or whitening without supervision of a dentist. Once the regulation is finalized, it will be set for a public hearing. Once it is approved through the AG's office, it will be posted on the website, along with the information on the public hearing.

You can report another licensee if you think they suffer from an addiction. Call HAPN- 913-236-7575 for more information

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