

**RULES
OF
TENNESSEE BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

**CHAPTER 0460-03
RULES GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

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0460-03-.01 LICENSURE PROCESS. To practice as a dental hygienist in Tennessee a person must possess a lawfully issued license from the Board. The process for obtaining a license is as follows:

- (1) An applicant shall obtain a Board application form from the Board Administrative Office, respond truthfully and completely to every question or request for information contained in the form and submit it along with all documentation and fees required by the form and this rule to the Board Administrative Office. It is the intent of this rule that all activities necessary to accomplish the filing of the required documentation be completed prior to filing a licensure application and that all documentation be filed simultaneously at least sixty (60) days prior to the next scheduled Board meeting.
- (2) An applicant shall cause to be submitted directly, from a dental hygiene school, college or university approved or provisionally approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, to the Board Administrative Office, a certificate of graduation containing the institutions Official Seal and which shows the following:
 - (a) The applicant's transcript; and
 - (b) The degree and diploma conferred, or a letter from the dean of the educational institution attesting to the applicant's eligibility for the degree and diploma if the last term of dental hygiene school has not been completed at the time of application. However, no license shall be issued until official notification is received in the Board Administrative Office that the degree and diploma have been conferred.
- (3) An applicant shall submit:
 - (a) Proof of having attained at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
 - (b) A signed "passport" style photograph taken within the preceding twelve (12) months.
- (4) An applicant shall submit evidence of good moral character. Such evidence shall include at least two (2) letters attesting to the applicant's character from dental professionals on the signator's letterhead.
- (5) An applicant shall submit proof of United States or Canadian citizenship or evidence of being legally entitled to live in the United States. Such evidence may include copies of birth certificates, naturalization papers, or current visa status.

(Rule 0460-03-.12, continued)

3. Type of anesthesia administered;
4. Dosage/amount administered;
5. Location/site of administration; and
6. Any adverse reaction.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 63-5-105, 63-5-108, 63-5-115, and 63-5-116. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed October 12, 2007; effective December 26, 2007. Amendment filed September 30, 2014; effective December 29, 2014. Amendments filed May 14, 2019; effective August 12, 2019.

0460-03-.13 PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATION. A licensed dental hygienist in Tennessee must obtain certification to prescribe fluoride agents, topical oral anesthetic agents, and nonsystemic oral antimicrobials to any patient.

(1) Application and Qualifications for Certification

- (a) Tennessee licensed dental hygienists are eligible to take a Board-approved prescriptive authority certification course. The Board-approved course must include dosage and writing recommendations and the limitations of dental hygiene prescribing authority pursuant to T.C.A. 63-5-108, effective July 1, 2020.
- (b) Tennessee licensed dental hygienists, who have successfully completed a comparable dental hygiene training program on prescriptive authority in another state, which is comparable to the Board-approved course, are eligible to apply directly to the Board for certification in prescriptive authority without additional training, provided the course is determined by the Board consultant to be equivalent to the Board-approved course in Tennessee. The information regarding content of the course and proof of completion must be sent directly from the course provider to the Board's administrative office. If a certification or permit was issued by the other state, verification of the certification or permit must be received directly from the other board. If it is determined that the course is not equivalent, the licensed dental hygienist will be required to comply with the provisions of subparagraph (1)(a) before certification can be issued.
- (c) Tennessee licensed dental hygienists applying for a prescriptive authority certification must have actively practiced as a licensed dental hygienist for no less than 1600 hours.
- (d) Tennessee licensed dental hygienists applying for a prescriptive authority certification must submit proof of successful completion of a two (2) hour pharmacology continuing education course.

(2) Prescriptive Authority Certification

- (a) Licensed dental hygienists with a prescriptive authority certification shall be limited to prescribing fluoride agents, topical oral anesthetic agents, and nonsystemic oral antimicrobials that are not controlled substances under state and federal drug laws; and do not require a license from the federal drug enforcement agency.
- (b) Licensed dental hygienists with a prescriptive authority certification shall only prescribe for patients under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, as provided in T.C.A. 63-5-115 (b) (2). A prescription written by a dental hygienist under this section must be reviewed by a dentist within 30 days.

(Rule 0460-03-.12, continued)

(c) Licensed dental hygienists with a prescriptive authority certification shall prominently display, at their place of employment, the current certificate, which is received upon licensure and renewal.

(d) A prescriptive authority certification is only valid as long as the licensed dental hygienist has a current license to practice dental hygiene. If the license expires or is retired, the certification is also considered expired or retired and the dental hygienist may not prescribe fluoride agents, topical oral anesthetic agents, and nonsystemic oral antimicrobials to any patient until the license is renewed, reinstated or reactivated.

(3) Allowable Percentages of Prescribed Agents

(a) Topical anti-caries treatments using sodium fluoride unless otherwise stated:

1. Toothpastes – 1.1 percent (or stannous fluoride 0.4 percent);
2. Topical gels – 1.1 percent (or stannous fluoride 0.4 percent);
3. Oral rinses – 0.05 percent, 0.2 percent, 0.44 percent, 0.5 percent or oral rinse concentrate at 0.63 percent stannous fluoride;
4. Fluoride varnish – 5 percent;
5. Prophy paste – 1.25 percent and;
6. Fluoride paste – 5 percent

(b) Topical oral anesthetic agent:

1. Up to 20 percent benzocaine;
2. Up to 2 percent viscous lidocaine and;
3. Cetacaine to include 14 percent benzocaine, 2 percent butamben and 2 percent tetracaine hydrochloride

(c) Nonsystemic oral antimicrobials/topical anti-infectives:

1. Chlorhexidine gluconate rinses – 0.12 percent;
2. Arestin- minocycline hydrochloride microspheres, 1mg inserted into periodontal sulcus and;
3. Atridox – doxycycline hyclate 10% gel inserted into periodontal sulcus

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 63-5-105, 63-5-108, 63-5-115, and 63-5-116. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed October 12, 2007; effective December 26, 2007. Amendment filed September 30, 2014; effective December 29, 2014. Amendments filed May 14, 2019; effective August 12, 2019.