



DOH 646-175 November 2018

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A Letter From the Commission

From the members of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission.

Public safety is the Dental Commission’s primary duty. Regulation and rulemaking are critical parts of fulfilling that mission. We appreciate this opportunity to provide insight about our important rule writing efforts and to explain the rationale behind them.

The legislature requires us to protect public health, and to promote the welfare of the state, by acting as the disciplinary and regulatory body for dental professionals licensed in Washington. That means we establish, monitor, and enforce qualifications for licensure, continuing education, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures must promote the delivery of high-quality health care to Washington residents.

With many different rule changes being considered, we understand there may be some misunderstanding about the process and about the intent for significant rule changes. Please know that we consider many issues and directives before authorizing rule changes. Such changes are necessary to be current with technology and national issues. Throughout rule writing development we ask questions, research topics, and discuss with stakeholders for many months before enacting a rule change.

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Commission Members

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- Julia Richman, D.D.S.,
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- Robert Shaw, D.M.D.
- James Henderson,
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- Bree Kramer, EFDA
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- Aaron Stevens, D.M.D.
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- Brian Macall, D.D.S.
- Sonia Pal, D.M.D.
- Karla Briggs, Public Member
- Tiffany Bass, D.D.S.
- Abhishake Banda, D.M.D.

New Dentist Continuing Education Requirements

Effective January 1, 2019

The Dental Commission adopted amendments to clarify continuing education (CE) requirements. A major change includes the CE reporting period, 63 hours every three years. Please note, although the CE reporting period is changing from annual-ly to every three years, this does not change the annual renewal of a dentist license. You must still renew your dental license every year on or before your birthdate.

- Sixty-three CE hours every three years; license renewal is still annual on your birthdate.
- Jurisprudence examination required once every three years, counts as one hour of CE (free, online, open book).

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Denturists in Washington State

Provided by Vallan Charron, Denturist

Find more information about the Board of Denturists on our [webpage](#).

Access denturist laws here.

[RCW 18.30](#)
[WAC 246.812](#)

In 1994 our state passed Initiative 607 (denturist licensing) by more than 15 percentage points. Since that time denturists have been widely accepted in the dental community as a viable option for removable prosthetics.

Washington State is lucky enough to be bordered by and near states, along with a neighboring nation, that also have licensed denturists. Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, as well as all of Canada, recognize denturists as independent practitioners for providing dentures. The United States still has only six states that regulate the practice of denturists. Arizona and Maine also recognize denturists to help people who need dentures.

Denturists have found a comfortable niche within their local communities' dental needs. Patients who once thought that their dentures were "good forever" or "never need another check-up" have found homes in a denturist's chair. Also, this has expanded the relationship between the dentist and denturist. Denturists regularly refer patients to their friends in dentistry for services they cannot

provide. These relationships have increased the placement of dental implants as well as improved overall oral health care.

More information on the denturist profession in Washington and nationally is at [wadenturist.com](#) and [nationaldenturist.com](#). Below is a podcast link that provides some insight to the history of licensed denturists.

<https://www.voicesfromthebench.com/guests/toddyoung>



Dental Hygiene BLS Requirements

Provided by Bruce Bronoske, Jr., Program Manager

Dental hygienists must maintain a current basic life support for the healthcare provider certification in order to renew their license (WAC 246-815-140(1)(b)). This course is specifically designed for healthcare professionals and includes additional information not covered in other classes. This training develops a team-based approach to medical emergencies and covers topics more appropriate to a healthcare setting. No other CPR courses will meet the requirement for renewal.

Updated CE Requirements

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- No limit on live webinars.
- Specialty board certification/recertification counts as 62 hours of CE, earned in CE reporting period.
- Self-study/online CE – 30 minutes counts for every one hour completed; no limit on number of total hours.
- Basic life support, count one hour per year (three hours total for three-year reporting period).
- Clinical supervision is acceptable CE.
- Publishing a paper is acceptable CE.
- Reading journal articles is acceptable CE, with additional requirements.
- Award of fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, master of AGD, or lifelong learning and service recognition award counts as 62 hours of CE.

The three-year requirement begins January 1, 2019.

You begin obtaining your CE for the three-year reporting period beginning on January 1, 2019.

First CE due date will be with your renewal in 2022.

Example: Your birthdate is June 15, 2019. Begin obtaining 63 hours of CE on January 1, 2019 through June 15, 2022.

CE hours taken before January 1, 2019 will not count for the new three-year reporting period.

Dentists should continue to maintain their current 21 hours of CE through renewal in 2018.

Access
dentistry laws
here.

[RCW 18.32](#)
[WAC 246-817](#)
[RCW 18.260](#)
[RCW 18.350](#)
[RCW 18.130](#)
[WAC 246-12](#)
[WAC 246-16](#)
[RCW 70.02](#)

Renew Your Credential Online

Dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, expanded function dental auxiliaries, and dental anesthesia assistants who are within 60 days of their license expiration date, are able to renew their active status licenses, registrations or certifications online.

To renew online, you must register with Secure Access Washington and sign-in to the Department of Health Online Services. Go to the [Secure Access Washington \(SAW\) website](#). Here is a link to [online renewal frequently asked questions](#).

If you're having problems with the Department of Health Online Services site, [contact our Customer Service Office by email](#) or phone at 360-236-4700.

Commission Letter

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The legislature enacts laws that direct us to write rules to implement those laws. One such law deals with opioid prescribing. We participated on a 10-person cross-profession workgroup to draft opioid prescribing rules over seven months in 2017 and 2018. Additionally, the commission discussed comments and concerns from stakeholders at many business meetings this year, and incorporated significant changes through this process.

National concerns or increased complaints sometimes identify the need to modify a rule, such as infection control. The same is true of incidents in our state of significant patient harm or death, such as a death of a child after receiving anesthesia. These are serious public safety and health concerns that we must address.

For example, on-site inspections for anesthesia providers have been discussed at several commission meetings since 2014. On-site inspections for anesthesia providers were originally authorized in 2009. We are now modifying this rule because we have not been enforcing the inspections. The rules are not final. We continue to seek feedback to ensure the rule is fair and necessary.

We also have been discussing continuing competency. Under RCW 18.32.002, the law states in part the commission's purpose is "... to regulate the competency and quality of professional health care providers under its jurisdiction by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing qualifications for licensure, continuing education, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline." Although we are carefully reviewing this topic, we are only in the discussion phase.

Everything we do has some type of oversight: a state law, a governor directive, or your input and review. Your comments help us make decisions. We read and value all comments, even when we might not agree. We consider public safety and health with every decision we make.

We, the members of the Dental Commission, ask you to engage in our rule making process to ensure your voice is heard. Cooperation and communication are crucial in carrying out the public safety responsibility we share.

Meeting notices and requests for comments are made through our interested parties list. It's easy to sign up to receive these emails at www.doh.wa.gov. Rules in progress are published on our [website](#). Comments can be provided to Jennifer Santiago at Jennifer.santiago@doh.wa.gov.

Reader Input

The commission is looking for reader input. If you want to read about something specific, [please let us know](#).



New CE Rule Frequently Asked Questions

Effective January 1, 2019

How many hours of continuing education do I need to renew my dental license?

Sixty-three hours every three years. State law details continuing education requirements for dentists (WAC 246-817-440).

May I count continuing education hours from one reporting period to the next reporting period?

No. You may not carry over continuing education in excess of the required hours earned in a reporting period to the next reporting period (WAC 246-12-230).

May I complete all 63 hours of continuing education in the first or last year of my reporting period?

Yes. You may obtain the 63 hours of continuing education any time during the required three-year reporting period.

When does my three-year reporting period start?

The three-year continuing education reporting period for a dentist licensed in Washington before 2019 begins January 1, 2019. Verification of completion of continuing education hours will be due on the dentist's annual license renewal date in 2022, and every three years thereafter.

The three-year continuing education reporting period for a dentist initially licensed in Washington in 2019 or later begins upon date of licensure and every three years thereafter.

Why was the continuing education reporting period changed to three years?

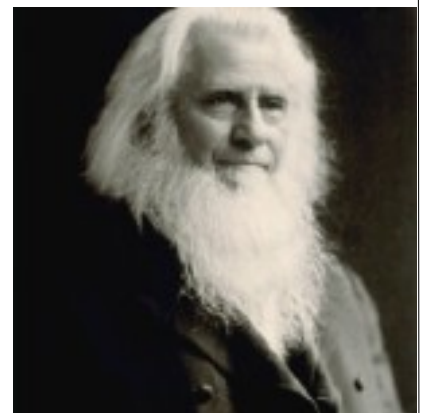
The commission determined a three-year reporting period provides more flexibility for dentists to complete continuing education. Some dentists earn more than 21 hours in one year and will now be able to claim all hours within their specific three-year reporting period. Better quality continuing education can be sought, rather than dentists taking any course to meet the one-year deadline. Additionally, many other states have two- or three-year reporting periods. This change creates consistency with other states.

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Infamous or Famous

Thomas Welch: While it may seem ironic that the creator of a company specializing in sugar-laden fruit juices was also a dentist, that's exactly what happened with Thomas Welch. He was a British-American minister and dentist. The founder of Welch's was a dentist before he retired and gained some notoriety for inventing a pasteurization process for grape juice that kept it from fermenting. Welch's intention was to create a non-alcoholic wine that could be used at the sacrament in churches, calling it "Dr. Welch's Unfermented Wine."

Thomas Welch's son, Charles E. Welch, was also a dentist. Father and son actually established a Welch's Dental Supply Company and even a dentistry journal.



Meet the Educational Outreach Committee

The Educational Outreach Committee is a subcommittee of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission. The committee is made up of members from the Dental Quality Assurance Commission, Board of Denturists, and Dental Hygiene Examining Committee. The committee works to educate dental professionals and the public about what's happening in the dental arena. Below are a couple of the members of this committee.



Vallan (Val) Charron, Denturist

My name is Vallan “Val” Charron. I have been a licensed denturist for nearly 25 years. I own Northwest Dental and Denture in Tacoma. We have two dentists and two denturists on staff. Last fall I was appointed to the Denturist Board for the second time in my career. I volunteered immediately when the opportunity came about to serve on this committee of all our dental peers.

In my spare time I coach club fastpitch softball and recently was hired as a coach for the Pierce College fastpitch softball team in Tacoma-Puyallup. Golf and travel are also passions, as well as hanging out with my three adult daughters.



Aaron Stevens, DMD

The power to license the dental profession is derived from the public. Its interests need to be represented by people with dental knowledge and a public priority mindset. I believe I meet that well in my service on the commission. Outside of dentistry and service here, I love time with family canyoneering, hiking, mountain biking, and playing tennis

Answers From July Newsletter Quiz

Below are the answers to the continuing education quiz in the July 2018 newsletter. Look for the answers to this month's quiz in the March 2019 newsletter.

1. C
2. C
3. C
4. A



CE FAQ's

[continued from page 5](#)

How many hours of continuing education may I do online?

There is no limit, but only 30 minutes for every one hour completed counts toward continuing education. Example: You complete 30 hours of continuing education online; you may use 15 hours toward your required 63 hours of continuing education.

What is education in evidence-based dentistry or medicine that includes journal article evaluation?

It is education that practices critical thinking and builds a knowledge base of logical fallacies and biases to filter out literature that is poorly done or misleading. It will also teach the learner how to measure the level of reliability of the conclusions of any particular paper even if it is well done. Readers will be more effective if they are familiar with that literature. The learners will develop a series of questions that will lead them to methodically dissect the information in a verifiable and reproducible way.

Where do I obtain a critical evaluation of journal article education?

Courses are available by multiple organizations in person or online; i.e. universities, Johns Hopkins, and Cochrane courses. Education should contain literature analysis. Verification of any Commission on Dental Accreditation residency meets the critical evaluation of a journal article education.

Are live webinars considered self-study or online education?

No. Live interactive webinars are specifically indicated as allowable in WAC 246-817-440 (4)(a) of the rule.

If I take the jurisprudence examination in December of 2018, may I count that as part of the required 63 hours?

No. Changes to WAC 246-817-440 become effective January 1, 2019. Hours used to meet the 63-hour requirement must be taken on or after January 1, 2019.

When may I begin taking CE to meet the new 63 hour CE requirement?

On or after January 1, 2019.

May I count a course taken in year one of the CE reporting period and count the same course again in year three of the CE reporting period?

No. You may not count the same course twice in one CE reporting period (WAC 246-12-230), except for basic life support which may be taken once each year. You may count three hours every three years (WAC 246-817-440).

Where do I obtain the critical evaluation of a journal article questionnaire?

[On our webpage.](#) WAC 246-817-440 (4)(f)(ii).

Find current and revised CE requirements here.

[WAC 246-817-440](#)



You can find all of our continuing education FAQ's on our What's Happening [webpage.](#)

Legal Actions July 2018 — October 2018

The following are final actions taken by the commission or Secretary of Health. Notices of decision on applications, modifications to orders, terminations of orders, and stipulations to informal discipline are not listed. The actions below have been edited for clarity and brevity. You can view the actual orders on the [provider credential search webpage](#).

Practitioner and County	Date	Order Type	Cause of Action	Commission Action
Cameron, Emily (dental assistant) Whatcom County	7/13/2018	Final Order of Default	Failed to participate in substance abuse monitoring program.	Indefinite suspension.
Cook, Samantha (dental assistant) Kootenai County, ID	7/13/2018	Final Order of Default	Plead guilty in Idaho to possession of a controlled substance and was convicted of possession of paraphernalia.	42 month suspension.
Davis, George (dentist) King County	9/26/2018	Ex Parte Order of Summary Action	Infection control failures, health and safety concerns, and lack of CPR or BLS certifications.	Summary suspension pending further disciplinary proceedings.
Kim, Yang H. (dentist) California	10/26/2018	Agreed Order	Dental Board of California adopted a Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order which imposed conditions upon the dental license in California for at least four years.	Probation for four years; take and pass the jurisprudence exam; \$5,000.00 fine; employer notification; requirement for practice monitor which shall submit quarterly reports.
Lunt, Donald (dentist) Clark County	9/7/2018	Agreed Order	Practice below standard of care in treating patient with fibrous growth.	\$5,000 fine; \$5,582.16 cost recovery; take and pass jurisprudence exam; continuing education in documentation and recordkeeping, nerve injury and repair, and pathology.
Trujillo, German (general anesthesia permit) San Diego County, CA	7/13/2018	Agreed Order	Failure to provide proof of having completed required continuing education for general anesthesia permit.	Indefinite suspension of general anesthesia permit.
Zimmer, Joseph (dentist) King County	7/13/2018	Agreed Order	Improperly placed implant.	\$1,000 fine; \$3,923.22 cost recovery; refund patient \$5,995; Continuing education in ethics, implant, and prosthodontics; take and pass the jurisprudence exam.

Earn Continuing Education Credit!

Continuing Education Quiz

The commission allows one hour of continuing education credit for reading this newsletter! To qualify, please take the quiz below. Keep the completed quiz with your other continuing education certificates of completion.

If you are audited, provide the quiz along with your other proof of continuing education and you will receive one hour of continuing education under WAC 246-817-440(4)(c). You are allowed no more than seven hours in the categories of educational audio or videotapes, films, slides, internet, or independent reading, where an assessment tool is required. This section will provide one of those seven hours allowed.

1. What is the dental commission's **primary** duty?
 - A. To create new dentistry laws.
 - B. Public safety.
 - C. To discipline dentists.
2. What year did the legislature pass the initiative that created denturist licensing?
 - A. 1994
 - B. 1982
 - C. 2001
3. Effective January 1, 2019, how many continuing education hours will be required every three years?
 - A. 21
 - B. 63
 - C. 42
4. Effective January 1, 2019, how many hours of continuing education can I complete online?
 - A. 21
 - B. 63
 - C. There is no limit, but only 30 minutes for every one hour completed counts toward continuing education.

Commission Staff Contact Information

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Customer Service
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www.doh.wa.gov

[Commission website](#)

Commission Meeting Dates

Dec. 7, 2018
January 18, 2019
March 1, 2019
April 19, 2019
June 7, 2019
July 26, 2019
September 13, 2019
October 25, 2019
December 6, 2019

**Public Health - Always
Working for a Safer and
Healthier Washington.**