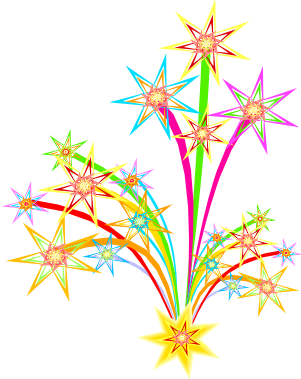


Hooray for Local Anesthesia in Virginia



Effective April 16, 2008, the Board of Dentistry (BOD) permits dental hygienists who qualify for training requirements defined in the regulations to administer just inhalation analgesia (nitrous oxide) or administer both inhalation analgesia and local anesthesia. There is no current provision to qualify only for the administration of local anesthesia. The BOD will not provide the service of reviewing credentials and will not register or certify hygienists to administer. The VDHA worked tirelessly with joint task forces to be able to make Local Anesthesia a reality! Thank you to all VDHA leaders for their efforts in making this happen. This is an example of how your membership makes a difference!

Administration of anesthesia or analgesia by hygienists

18VAC60-20-81. Administration of local anesthesia and/or nitrous oxide by dental hygienists.

A dentist who provides direction for the administration of nitrous oxide/inhalation analgesia or local anesthesia shall ensure that the dental hygienist has met the qualifications for such administration. The review of credentials should be documented in the hygienists personnel record.

Dental hygienists also bear responsibility to understand and apply the regulations to their practice because as licensees they are subject to discipline by the Board for practicing outside the scope of their education, training and experience pursuant to §54.1-2706(12) of the Code. A dental hygienist who meets the qualifications set forth in this section and who is under the direction of a dentist may administer nitrous oxide/inhalation analgesia or, to patients 18 years of age or older, local anesthesia. Local anesthesia shall not include topical Schedule VI medicinal agents that may be administered under general supervision pursuant to 18VAC60-20-220 B.

The Dental Hygienist must successfully complete a didactic and clinical course leading to certification in administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide/inhalation analgesia that is offered **by a dental or dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, which includes a minimum of 36 didactic and clinical hours.** The hygienist must also successfully complete an examination with a minimum score of 75% in the administration of nitrous oxide/inhalation analgesia and local anesthesia given by the accredited program. A dental hygienist who holds a certificate or credential issued by the licensing board of another U.S. jurisdiction that authorizes the administration of nitrous oxide/inhalation analgesia or local anesthesia may be authorized for such administration in Virginia if:

The qualifications on which the credential or certificate was issued were substantially equivalent in hours of instruction and course content to those set forth in subsections B and C of this section; or

If the certificate or credential issued by another jurisdiction was not substantially equivalent, the hygienist can document experience in such administration for at least 24 of the past 48 months preceding application for licensure in Virginia.

Source: The Executive Director of the Board of Dentistry
18VAC60-20-108. Administration of anxiolysis or inhalation analgesia.

Please review all the regulations on the Board of Dentistry website at www.dhp.virginia.gov/dentistry

Visit our website for additional information on course offerings

www.vdha.net

Legislative News

During the 2008 General Assembly VDHA, along with VDAA and VDA, supported a proposal offered by the Board of Dentistry (BOD *duties not otherwise restricted to the practice of a dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant II, as prescribed*) to regulate dental assistants in the Commonwealth, Senate Bill (SB) 151. The language used in the bill follows:

A “Dental assistant I” is a person who is employed to assist a licensed dentist or dental hygienist by performing by regulations of the Board;

A “Dental Assistant II” is a person who has met such additional educational and training requirements as may be prescribed by the regulations of the Board, holds a certification from a credentialing organization recognized by the American Dental Association, and is registered with the Board. A dental assistant II may perform duties not otherwise restricted to the practice of a dentist or dental hygienist under the direction of a licensed dentist that are reversible, intraoral procedures specified in regulations of the Board;

What does this mean? This means that the Board of Dentistry (BOD) supports a level of education, training and registration for dental assistants, otherwise known as a DA II. These dental assistants will need to provide documentation that educational require-

ments have been met to the BOD. The BOD will determine these requirements. A Dental Assistant I, or DA I, will be an assistant who has no formal education or training who is hired by a dentist to perform traditional dental assisting duties. This legislation is in no way intended to allow scaling by dental assistants DA I or DAII, but to provide a more educated member to the dental team serving the citizens of Virginia. The legislation went into effect on July 1, 2008.

The BOD has begun drafting the language that will regulate these individuals and public comment will also be received. Additionally, Marge Green will serve as VDHA’s advisor to the Regulatory/Legislative Committee of the Virginia Board of Dentistry as the regulations are written. Some may be asking why has VDHA supported this and the answer is very simple. VDHA strongly supports life long learning, not only for dental hygienists, but for all members of the dental team. VDHA values dental assistants and supports the furthering of their level of education.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesia Crane, VDHA Legislative Committee Chair

Membership

Membership within an organization that is designed just for you and your profession is very important. VDHA is committed to **empowering** you to become the very best dental hygienist for yourself and your community. **Developing** your knowledge through ADHA is right at your finger tips. Professional resources such as Access, the Journal of Dental Hygiene, online continuing education and many other informational resources are available for you by going to www.adha.org and www.vdha.net. Together ADHA and VDHA are here to provide **support** for you and your career in the dental hygiene profession.

There is employment assistance, networking capabilities and your local component meetings. We are available to provide the necessary support we all need to grow personally and professionally. Join the organization that is designed to empower, develop and support who you are as a person and as a professional dental hygienist. **Join, Renew and Transition** into the only organization designed with **YOU** in mind **ADHA/VDHA**. Go to www.adha.org and become a member today!

Carrie Merritt, RDH, VDHA Membership Chair

Save the Date for VDHA’s Annual Session in Newport News April 2-5, 2008

VDHA Rally Day 2008 - A Tremendous Success!

Approximately 100 dental hygiene students, faculty and VDHA members attended Rally Day on January 25, in Richmond, Virginia. Students were represented from Germanna Community College, Northern Virginia Community College, Old Dominion University and Virginia Commonwealth University. Our Legislative Council provided information on the day's events and what students could expect during the day. Students delivered oral health bags to their respective legislator along with information regarding several initiatives that VDHA is supporting. Some students were able to speak to their Senator or Delegate face to face, while others were able to speak with the all important Legislative Aids. Senator Lucas and Delegate Peace gave floor introductions of VDHA to the entire floor of their respective chambers. While on the House side, students were able to watch passage of SB151 which provides a new educational level for dental assistants in the Commonwealth. The day was highlighted by a tour of the newly renovated Capitol and the tour guides shared the historic importance in this beautifully renovated building. The day was productive and rewarding for all who attended. Mark your calendar for next year's date, January 23, with the snow date of January 30. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lesla Crane,

VDHA Legislative Committee Chair



Want to Help?

Donate to the Legislative Fund

The Legislative Fund assists VDHA with our legislation advocacy efforts,
Board of Dentistry Consultants, Rally Day, and many more venues
which support our success

Visit our website for more information

www.vdha.net

**The Virginia Dental
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Our Mission

The mission of the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association
is to improve the public's total health and advance
the art and science of dental hygiene