

Montana Department of Commerce
Division of Professional & Occupational Licensing
Board of Dentistry
Continuing Education Information
for Montana Dental Hygienists

Administrative Rules of Montana
8.16.1001 through 8.16.1004

Sub-Chapter 10

Continuing Education

8.16.1001 DEFINITION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (1) Continuing education consists of educational activities designed to:

- (a) review existing concepts and techniques,
- (b) convey information beyond the basic professional education, and
- (c) update knowledge on advances in dental, medical and dental hygiene sciences.

(2) Continuing education programs are designed for part-time enrollment and are usually of short duration, although longer programs with structured, sequential curricula may also be included within this definition. Continuing dental education programs do not lead to eligibility for ethical announcement or certification in a specialty recognized by the American dental association. (History: Sec. 37-4-205, 37-4-307, 37-4-406, MCA; IMP, Sec. 37-4-205, 37-4-307, 37-4-406, MCA; NEW, 1993 MAR p. 287, Eff. 2/26/93.)

8.16.1002 SUBJECT MATTER ACCEPTABLE FOR DENTIST AND DENTAL HYGIENIST CONTINUING EDUCATION (1) Acceptable continuing education includes courses in which:

(a) The subject matter contributes directly to the professional competence of the licensee, or patient care rendered by the licensee. This may include, but is not limited to, the following clinical subjects relating to the dental profession:

- (i) oral surgery;
- (ii) operative dentistry;
- (iii) oral pathology;
- (iv) preventive dentistry;
- (v) orthodontics;
- (vi) clinical patient management;
- (vii) pedodontics;
- (viii) oral biology;
- (ix) periodontics;
- (x) prosthodontics;
- (xi) dental materials;

- (xii) implantology;
- (xiii) radiology;
- (xiv) infection control;
- (xv) endodontics;
- (xvi) management of medical emergencies; and
- (xvii) practice management.

(b) The information presented enables the licensee to enhance the dental health of the public.

(c) The licensee is able to apply the knowledge gained within his/her professional capacity.

(d) Instructors should be qualified with respect to program content and teaching methods used. (History: Sec. 37-1-319, 37-4-205, MCA; IMP, Sec. 37-1-306, 37-4-205, MCA; NEW, 1993 MAR p. 287, Eff. 2/26/93; AMD, 1994 MAR p. 2627, Eff. 9/23/94; AMD, 1996 MAR p. 3118, Eff. 12/6/96.)

8.16.1003 REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS (1) Each dentist and dental hygienist licensed by the Montana board of dentistry shall have completed, within a three-year cycle, the following minimum number of continuing education credits of instruction in acceptable courses of continued education:

(a) Dentist - 60 per three-year cycle, with such requirements commencing on March 1, 1993. Dentists who have general anesthesia or conscious sedation permits must acquire these 60 continuing education credits in addition to those required for maintenance of those permits.

(b) Dental hygienist - 36 per three-year cycle, with such requirements commencing on March 1, 1993.

(2) For the purpose of compliance, one continuing education credit will be recognized for each 60 minutes of involvement. Credit will not be earned for time spent in introductory remarks, coffee and luncheon breaks or business meetings.

(3) Courses that are unacceptable for continuing education credit include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(a) Self-help/pop psychology (i.e. personal goal development, transactional analysis, assertiveness training);

(b) Legislative/political issues;

(c) Unproven modalities or experimental techniques;

(d) Basic science courses;

(e) Basic life support/CPR.

(4) Continuing education may include presentation of lectures and/or participation courses related to subject matter(s) listed in ARM 8.16.1002(1)(a)(i) through (xvii).

(a) Three credits for each 60 minutes of initial presentation will be allowed for lecture and/or participation courses.

(b) One credit for each 60 minutes will be allowed for repeat lectures from material previously presented. (History: Sec. 37-1-319, 37-4-205, MCA; IMP, Sec. 37-1-306, 37-4-205, MCA; NEW, 1993 MAR p. 287, Eff. 2/26/93; AMD, 1994 MAR p. 2627, Eff. 9/23/94; AMD, 1996 MAR p. 3118, Eff. 12/6/96; AMD, 1999 MAR p. 209, Eff. 1/29/99.)

8.16.1004 REPORTING PROCEDURES (1) Continuing education credits may not be carried over from one three-year cycle to another.

(2) Licensees are required to keep a record of continuing education completed and make this available to the board if so requested.

(3) Licensees shall affirm their understanding of and compliance with continuing education requirements with the annual license renewal.

(4) Failure of licensee to produce records of required continuing education may result in disciplinary action. Following an audit failure, the licensee will be afforded a one-year period to gain the appropriate continuing education requirements. If compliance is not attained, disciplinary action pursuant to 37-1-312, MCA, will be taken.

(5) A random audit of the licensees will be conducted in every three-year cycle. (History: Sec. 37-1-319, 37-4-205, MCA; IMP, Sec. 37-1-306, 37-4-205, MCA; NEW, 1993 MAR p. 287, Eff. 2/26/93; AMD, 1996 MAR p. 3118, Eff. 12/6/96.)