

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
SUMMER UPDATE
AUGUST 2004**

Dear Licensees:

This update is intended to apprise you of the various changes that have occurred with the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry and in the Dental Practice Act over the past year. Please read this update carefully as some of the changes may have an impact on you and your practice. If you have any questions, please contact the board office or visit our website at www.lsbdb.org or you may call us toll free at 1-877-467-4488.

Dr. Charley M. Lester retired after serving twenty-one years on the board representing the At-Large Seat A. Dr. Lester served admirably and will be dearly missed. His experience, wisdom and dedication can never be replaced. Dr. Lester served as president of the board as well as chairman of numerous committees. We wish him all the success in his future.

Dr. Romell Madison was appointed by Governor Foster to succeed Dr. Lester and was confirmed by the Senate.

Dr. White S. Graves, III also retired from the board due to term limits. Dr. Graves served for ten years garnering him great respect and dignity throughout the dental world. Dr. Graves was responsible for the formulation of continuing education in the state and continues to represent the state of Louisiana as a representative to the Coalition of Independent Testing Agencies which was formed by the board and five other states several years ago to collaborate on clinical examination issues and give the board a voice on the national level. His service and dedication will also be tremendously missed.

Dr. Ronald B. Marks, Jr. also retired from the board after serving his ten years. Dr. Marks was instrumental on numerous issues regarding anesthesia and other legislative matters. Dr. Marks served as president of the board as well as chairing numerous committees. He is the past president of the Louisiana Dental Association and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Suffice it to say Dr. Marks has served organized dentistry and the citizens of Louisiana most capably.

Governor Blanco chose not to submit four of five board members who had been appointed by Governor Foster to the Senate for confirmation, Drs. Aubrey Baudean (at-large), Wilton Guillory (Alexandria), Lynn Philippe (at-large), and Samuel Trinca (Monroe).

Governor Blanco appointed Dr. Sam Vinci of St. Francisville to replace Dr. Lynn Philippe as an at large member. Governor Blanco also appointed Dr. Pamela Brown Daniel of Baton Rouge to serve on the other at-large seat replacing Dr. Aubrey Baudean who had been slated to serve as president in calendar year 2005. Drs. Baudean, Philippe, Guillory, and Trinca will be sorely missed. Dr. Baudean has been appointed to the aviation board by the governor. These fine gentlemen have served the board admirably and we are confident that they will again resurface as leaders in organized dentistry.

Governor Blanco reappointed Dr. H. O. Blackwood, III to represent the seventh electoral district (Shreveport). That seat had been vacant for over two years.

As of the date of this publication, Governor Blanco has yet to make appointments to the board's third LSBD district (Alexandria) and the fourth LSBD district (Monroe). We are eagerly awaiting her appointments to those two vacant seats and heartily welcome Drs. Madison, Daniel, Vinci, and Blackwood.

Presently serving as officers of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry are Dr. Charles T. McCabe, Jr., president, Dr. Vance Wascom, vice-president and Dr. Dennis E. Donald, secretary-treasurer.

The Board is working with the Louisiana Dental Association Task Force on Enteral Conscious Sedation. It is the goal of the board to regulate this modality and legislation is expected next year. At present, pediatric enteral sedation requires a permit, and with the legislation, we expect that the administration of adult enteral sedation will also require a permit. The necessary goals are to make sure that persons utilizing this modality are properly trained and use the proper equipment in their offices.

The board recently conducted a review of all yellow page advertising in the state of Louisiana and meted out approximately 25 fines for advertisements to be found in violation of the Dental Practice Act. Please always read Rule 301 before placing advertisements.

The number of complaints received by the board over the last several years has been increasing with approximately 200-250 complaints being received per year. This has caused a tremendous increase in the investigative activities of the board. Most complaints involve fee disputes which the board does not get involved in. Many others concern substandard care, failing to notify the board of changes of address, failure to give copies of records to patients, and drug related issues. The common thread throughout many of the fee disputes and substandard care cases often is lack of communication. Communication skills are necessary in dentistry as in any other profession.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control amended their recommendations for dentistry on December 19, 2003 in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The new regulations are entitled "Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Healthcare Settings – 2003." The report is quite voluminous and will not be reprinted in total by the board in order to save printing and postage costs. You may view the regulations at oralhealthcare@cdc.gov. Continuing dental education credit regarding the CDC guidelines may also be obtained at <http://www.ada.org> if you are a member of the American Dental Association.

Present law requires all licensees to be in compliance with Federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines in a reasonable amount of time following the publication of the changes which have now been in effect for nine months.

The board passed no legislation during 2003, and as such, new Dental Practice Act booklets will not be printed this year in order to save printing and postage costs. Please make sure you keep the blue book which was forwarded to you last year. Copies may be obtained from the office for \$35.00.

On July 22, 2004, the board promulgated the following notices of intent which will become effective as rules on October 20, 2004.

§301. Advertising and Soliciting by Dentists

D. Definitions

Prosthodontics—is the dental specialty pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation and maintenance of the oral function, comfort, appearance and health of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing or deficient teeth and/or maxillofacial tissues using biocompatible substitutes.

§306. Requirements of Applicants for Licensure by Credentials

- A. Before any applicant is awarded a license according to his/her credentials in lieu of an examination administered by the board, said applicant shall provide to the board satisfactory documentation evidencing:
1. the applicant has satisfactorily passed an examination administered by the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry testing the applicant's knowledge of the Louisiana Dental Practice Act and the jurisprudence affecting same;
 - 2.-18. . . .
 19. is free of any communicable or contagious disease, including but not limited to Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B Virus, and Hepatitis C Virus, and provide a notarized certificate of health from a medical doctor relative to his physical and mental condition; and

§507. High School Diploma Requirement

- A. Effective January 1, 1998, all applicants for expanded duty dental assistant certificate confirmation shall present satisfactory documentation evidencing their graduation from an accredited high school or receipt of a general equivalency diploma (GED) or providing satisfactory documentation showing that the applicant has a composite score of 18 or higher on the American College Test or a score of 870 or higher on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

§710. Administration of Local Anesthesia for Dental Purposes

- E. A dental hygienist who has been licensed and trained in a course equivalent to §710 (B) and (C) to administer local anesthesia in another state may qualify, at the discretion of the board, to be permitted to administer local anesthesia in Louisiana by presenting written documentation of such licensure and training to the board and documentation of experience in the previous two years and by gaining approval of the board through the interview process. Factors to be considered are whether the dental hygienist had satisfactorily completed a course at a dental hygiene school approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or by having successfully completed a continuing education course in local anesthesia comparable to the requirements set forth in Section 710 (B) and (C).

§1204. Investigations

- B. Unannounced inspections of dental offices may be conducted when bona fide complaints have been received regarding non-adherence to Federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines or other issues involving sanitation.

§1506. Pediatric Enteral Anesthesia

- A. In order to receive a permit to administer pediatric enteral anesthesia, the dentist shall:
1. have emergency equipment and drugs available in an emergency kit or crash cart which is immediately available to the dental operatory where the sedation procedure is being performed. These kits must include the necessary drugs and equipment to resuscitate a non-breathing unconscious patient and sustain life while the patient is being transported. There should be a list in each kit of the contents and a record of when the contents were checked. The following drugs should be available in the kit:
 - a. Epinephrine; b. Vasopressor; c. Corticosteroid; d. Bronchodilator; e. appropriate drug antagonists; f. Antihistaminic; g. Anticholinergic; h. coronary artery vasodilator; i. Anticonvulsant; j. Oxygen; k. 50 percent dextrose or other antihypoglycemic;
 2. A working pulse oximeter;
 3. Proper record keeping mechanism in addition to a controlled substance log;
 4. An accurate scale.
- B. Drugs for conscious sedation must be administered in a dental office and the patient must be observed by a qualified office staff member with training and credentials to perform the specific tasks concomitant with the procedure being administered. Continuous monitoring with pulse oximetry must be initiated with early signs of conscious sedation and continued until the patient is alert. A precordial, pretracheal stethoscope shall be utilized to assist intraoperatively in the monitoring of heart and respiratory rates. A sphygmomanometer shall be immediately available and utilized throughout the procedure.
- C. Satisfactory completion of a Board approved course.
- D. For those licensees who have received permits to administer pediatric enteral anesthesia prior to the effective date of this rule, said licensee shall satisfactorily complete a Board approved course in the administration of pediatric enteral anesthesia before the permit is renewed concurrently with the license renewal. However, a grace period of one hundred eighty days after the renewal of one's license shall be granted to the licensee if good cause can be shown that a course was not available.

(Note: This rule supplements R.S. 37:793(B)(1) as amended in 2003 to require a permit of all licensees who administer pediatric enteral conscious sedation. This applies to all patients under the age of 13. A permit is not required if the intended result is anxiolysis only, which is defined in R.S. 37:793(A)(1)(d).)

§1611. Continuing Education Requirements for Relicensure of Dentists

G. DELETED

§1613. Continuing Education Requirements for Relicensure of Dental Hygienists

G. DELETED

If you have any questions, please call the board office. Wishing you continued success, I am

Yours very truly

Charles T. McCabe, Jr. D.M.D.
President