

Chapter DE 13

CONTINUING EDUCATION

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DE 13.01 Authority. The rules in this chapter are adopted by the dentistry examining board under the authority of ss. 227.11 (2), 447.02 (1) (f), 447.055, 447.056, and 447.057, Stats.

History: CR 11-033; cr. Register July 2012 No. 679, eff. 8-1-12; **EmR2410:** emerg. am., eff. 7-26-24; CR 24-094: am. Register July 2025 No. 835, eff. 8-1-24.

DE 13.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) “Accredited” means accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor agency.

(2) “Credit hour” means 60 minutes, of which at least 50 minutes are instruction attended by the student.

(3) “Professional organization” means an organization that seeks to further the dental, dental therapy, dental hygiene, or medical professions, the interests of licensees engaged in those professions, and the public interests. “Professional organization” includes a study group, as defined in sub. (4).

(4) “Study group” means a group of 2 or more dentists, dental therapists, or dental hygienists who discuss continuing education topics relating to the practice of dentistry, dental therapy, or medicine, or the clinical practice of dental hygiene, and that satisfies all of the following:

(a) Has been in existence as a group for at least one year.

(b) Meets face-to-face at least once each year to discuss issues.

(c) Has adopted by-laws governing the operation of the group.

History: CR 11-033; cr. Register July 2012 No. 679, eff. 8-1-12; **EmR2410:** emerg. am. (3), (4) (intro.), eff. 7-26-24; CR 24-094: am. (3), (4) (intro.) Register July 2025 No. 835, eff. 8-1-24.

DE 13.03 Continuing education requirements for dentists. (1) **COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS.** Except as provided under sub. (6), during the 2-year period immediately preceding the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., a dentist shall complete 30 credit hours of continuing education related to the practice of dentistry or the practice of medicine. The 30 credit hours of continuing education shall include not less than 25 credit hours of instruction in clinical dentistry or clinical medicine.

(1m) **PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CONTINUING EDUCATION.** The 30 credit hours of continuing education shall include 2 hours in the topic of prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of dental pain.

(2) **CREDIT FOR TEACHING OR PREPARING A PROGRAM.** One hour of teaching or preparing a professional dental or medical program is equivalent to one credit hour of continuing education. A licensee who teaches or prepares a professional dental or medical program may obtain credit for the program only once during a biennium. Not more than 4 of the 30 hours may be from teaching.

(3) **CREDIT FOR COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES.** One credit hour of a college level course is equivalent to 6 credit hours of continuing

education. A licensee may substitute credit hours of college level courses related to the practice of dentistry or medicine for the required continuing education credit hours.

(4) **CREDIT FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION.** The credit hours required under sub. (1) may be satisfied by independent study, correspondence, or internet programs or courses.

(5) **CREDIT FOR ACCREDITED RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM.** Active enrollment in an accredited post-doctoral dental residency training program for at least 12 months of the current licensure cycle will be accepted as meeting the required 30 credit hours of continuing education.

(6) **EXEMPTION FOR NEW LICENSEES.** Subsection (1) does not apply to an applicant for renewal of a license that expires on the first renewal date after the date on which the applicant is licensed.

(7) **CERTIFICATION STATEMENT.** At the time of each renewal, each licensee shall sign a statement certifying that, within the 2 years immediately preceding the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., he or she has completed the continuing education credit hours required under sub. (1).

(8) **FAILURE TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS.** A licensee who fails to complete the continuing education requirements by the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., shall not practice dentistry until his or her license is restored under s. DE 2.03 (5).

(9) **TIME LIMITS ON OBTAINING CREDITS.** Credit hours completed before the 2-year period immediately preceding renewal of a license to practice dentistry may not be applied to fulfill the credit hours required under sub. (1).

(10) **RECORDKEEPING.** Every licensee shall maintain a written record of the continuing education hours required under sub. (1) for not less than 6 years after completion of each credit.

(11) **WAIVER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS.** The board may waive the continuing education requirements under sub. (1) if it finds that exceptional circumstances such as prolonged illness, disability, or other similar circumstances have prevented a licensee from meeting the requirements.

History: CR 11-033; cr. Register July 2012 No. 679, eff. 8-1-12; EmR1714, emerg. cr. (1m), eff. 10-1-17; CR 17-044: cr. (1m), Register February 2018 No. 746 eff. 3-1-18; CR 22-087: am. (1m) Register September 2023 No. 813, eff. 10-1-23.

DE 13.035 Continuing education requirements for dental therapists. (1) **COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS.** Except as provided under sub. (5), during the 2-year period immediately preceding the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., a dental therapist shall complete 12 credit hours of continuing education related to the practice of dental therapy. No more than 2 of the 12 credit hours may be satisfied by training related to basic life support or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Not less than 2 of the 12 credit hours shall include training in infection control.

(2) **PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CONTINUING**

EDUCATION. If a dental therapist has a federal drug enforcement administration registration number, the 12 credit hours of continuing education shall include 2 hours in the topic of prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of dental pain.

(3) CREDIT FOR COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES. One credit hour of a college level course is equivalent to 6 credit hours of continuing education. A licensee may substitute credit hours of college level courses related to the practice of dentistry, dental therapy, or medicine for the required continuing education credit hours.

(4) CREDIT FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION. The credit hours required under sub. (1) may be satisfied by independent study, correspondence, or internet programs or courses.

(5) EXEMPTION FOR NEW LICENSEES. Subsection (1) does not apply to an applicant for renewal of a license that expires on the first renewal date after the date on which the applicant is licensed.

(6) CERTIFICATION STATEMENT. At the time of each renewal, each licensee shall sign a statement certifying that, within the 2 years immediately preceding the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., the licensee has completed the continuing education credit hours required under sub. (1).

(7) FAILURE TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. A licensee who fails to complete the continuing education requirements by the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., shall not practice dental therapy until the license is restored under s. DE 2.03 (5).

(8) TIME LIMITS ON OBTAINING CREDITS. Credit hours completed before the 2-year period immediately preceding renewal of a license to practice dental therapy may not be applied to fulfill the credit hours required under sub. (1).

(9) RECORDKEEPING. Every licensee shall maintain a written record of the continuing education hours required under sub. (1) for not less than 6 years after completion of each credit.

(10) WAIVER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. The board may waive the continuing education requirements under sub. (1) if it finds that exceptional circumstances such as prolonged illness, disability, or other similar circumstances have prevented a licensee from meeting the requirements.

History: EmR2410: emerg. cr., eff. 7-26-24; CR 24-094: cr. Register July 2025 No. 835, eff. 8-1-24.

DE 13.04 Continuing education requirements for dental hygienists. (1) COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS. Except as provided in sub. (5), during the 2-year period immediately preceding the renewal date, a dental hygienist shall complete 12 credit hours of continuing education related to the clinical practice of dental hygiene or the practice of medicine. No more than 2 of the 12 credit hours may be satisfied by training related to basic life support or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Not less than 2 of the 12 credit hours shall include training in infection control.

(2) CREDIT FOR TEACHING OR PREPARING A PROGRAM. One hour of teaching or preparing a professional dental or medical program is equivalent to one credit hour of continuing education. A licensee who teaches or prepares a professional dental or medical program may obtain credit for the program only once during a biennium.

(3) CREDIT FOR COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES. One credit hour of a college level course is equivalent to 6 credit hours of continuing education. A licensee may substitute credit hours of college level courses related to the practice of dental hygiene or the practice of medicine for the required continuing education credit hours.

(4) CREDIT FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION. The credit hours required under sub. (1) may be satisfied by independent study, correspondence, or internet programs or courses.

(5) EXEMPTION FOR NEW LICENSEES. Subsection (1) does not apply to an applicant for renewal of a license that expires on the first renewal date after the date on which the applicant is licensed.

(6) CERTIFICATION STATEMENT. At the time of each renewal, each licensee shall sign a statement certifying that within the 2 years immediately preceding the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., he or she has completed the continuing education credit hours required under sub. (1).

(7) FAILURE TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. A licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal date specified under s. 440.08 (2) (a), Stats., shall not practice dental hygiene until his or her license is restored under s. DE 2.03 (5).

(8) TIME LIMITS ON OBTAINING CREDITS. Credit hours completed before the 2-year period immediately preceding renewal of a license to practice dental hygiene may not be applied to fulfill the credit hours required under sub. (1).

(9) RECORDKEEPING. Every licensee shall maintain a written record of the continuing education hours required under sub. (1) for not less than 6 years after completion of each credit.

(10) WAIVER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. The board may waive the continuing education requirements under sub. (1) if it finds that exceptional circumstances such as prolonged illness, disability, or other similar circumstances have prevented a licensee from meeting the requirements.

History: CR 11-033: cr. Register July 2012 No. 679, eff. 8-1-12.

DE 13.045 Continuing education requirements for expanded function dental auxiliaries. (1) COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS. Except as provided in sub. (5), in each 2-year period following certification, an expanded function dental auxiliary shall complete 12 credit hours of continuing education related to the clinical practice of expanded function dental auxiliaries or the practice of medicine. No more than 2 of the 12 credit hours may be satisfied by training related to basic life support or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Not less than 2 of the 12 credit hours shall include training in infection control.

(2) CREDIT FOR TEACHING OR PREPARING A PROGRAM. One hour of teaching or preparing a professional dental or medical program is equivalent to one credit hour of continuing education. A certified individual who teaches or prepares a professional dental or medical program may obtain credit for the program only once every 2-year period.

(3) CREDIT FOR COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES. One credit hour of a college level course is equivalent to 6 credit hours of continuing education. A certified individual may substitute credit hours of college level courses related to the practice of expanded function dental auxiliaries or the practice of medicine for the required continuing education credit hours.

(4) CREDIT FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION. The credit hours required under sub. (1) may be satisfied by independent study, correspondence, or internet programs or courses.

(5) EXEMPTION FOR NEW CERTIFIED INDIVIDUALS. Subsection (1) does not apply to an applicant who has had their certification for 2 years or less.

(6) CERTIFICATION STATEMENT. Every 2 years, each certified individual shall sign a statement certifying that within the 2 years immediately preceding that time, they have completed the continuing education credit hours required under sub. (1).

Note: The continuing education certification statement form is available on the department's website at <http://dps.wi.gov>. Completed forms can be mailed to the department at 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison, WI 53705.

(7) FAILURE TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. A certified individual who fails to meet the continuing education requirements every 2 years may be subject to discipline for unprofessional conduct under s. DE 5.02 (16).

(8) TIME LIMITS ON OBTAINING CREDITS. Credit hours completed outside of each 2-year time period may not count towards the requirements in sub. (1).

(9) RECORDKEEPING. Every certified individual shall maintain a written record of the continuing education hours required under sub. (1) for not less than 6 years after completion of each credit.

(10) WAIVER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. The board may waive the continuing education requirements under sub. (1) if it finds that exceptional circumstances such as prolonged illness, disability, or other similar circumstances have prevented a certified individual from meeting the requirements.

History: EmR2304: emerg. cr., eff. 3-1-23; CR 23-051: cr. Register June 2024 No. 822, eff. 7-1-24; correction in (1), (2), (5) to (8) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register June 2024 No. 822.

DE 13.05 Criteria for acceptance of continuing education programs. (1) DENTISTS. The board accepts continuing education programs for dentists that satisfy the following criteria:

(a) The subject matter of the continuing education program relates to the practice of dentistry or the practice of medicine.

(b) The continuing education program is one of the following:

1. Sponsored or recognized by a local, state, regional, national, or international dental or medical professional organization.

2. A college level course that is offered by a postsecondary institution accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or a successor agency, or by another recognized accrediting body.

3. A study group as specified in s. DE 13.02 (4).

(1m) DENTAL THERAPISTS. The board accepts continuing education programs for dental therapists that satisfy the following criteria:

(a) The subject matter of the continuing education program relates to the practice of dental therapy or the practice of medicine.

(b) The continuing education program is one of the following:

1. Sponsored or recognized by a local, state, regional, national, or international dental, dental therapy, dental hygiene, dental assisting, or medical related professional organization.

2. A college level course that is offered by a postsecondary institution accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or a successor agency, or by another recognized accrediting body.

3. A study group as specified in s. DE 13.02 (4).

(2) DENTAL HYGIENISTS. The board accepts continuing education programs for dental hygienists that satisfy the following criteria:

(a) The subject matter of the continuing education program relates to the clinical practice of dental hygiene or the practice of medicine.

(b) The continuing education program is one of the following:

1. Sponsored or recognized by a local, state, regional, national, or international dental, dental hygiene, dental assisting, or medical related professional organization.

2. A study group as specified in s. DE 13.02 (4).

(3) EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARIES. The board accepts continuing education programs for expanded function dental auxiliaries that satisfy the following criteria:

(a) The subject matter of the continuing education program relates to the clinical practice of an expanded function dental auxiliary or the practice of medicine.

(b) The continuing education program is one of the following:

1. Sponsored or recognized by a local, state, regional, national, or international dental, dental hygiene, dental assisting, or medical related professional organization.

2. A study group as specified in s. DE 13.02 (4).

History: CR 11-033: cr. Register July 2012 No. 679, eff. 8-1-12; EmR2304: emerg. cr. (3), eff. 3-1-23; CR 23-051: cr. (3) Register June 2024 No. 822, eff. 7-1-24; EmR2410: emerg. cr. (1m), eff. 7-26-24; CR 24-094: cr. (1m) Register July 2025 No. 835, eff. 8-1-24.