



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 318
[2005 Senate Bill 95]

**Continuing Education for Dental
Hygienists**

Under current law, there are no continuing education requirements for dental hygienists.

2005 Wisconsin Act 318 requires an applicant for renewal of a dental hygienists license to attest that he or she has completed 12 credit hours of continuing education every two years, and that he or she has a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification. The required continuing education hours may be satisfied by independent study, correspondence, or Internet courses or programs. Beginning January 1, 2007, the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) must biennially consult with the Dentistry Examining Board (DEB) and the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) regarding the number of credit hours of continuing education required for renewal. After consultation, DRL may promulgate a rule setting the number of hours required for renewal between 12 and 20.

Also, after consulting with the DEB and DHFS, the DRL may promulgate rules requiring credit hours in specific clinical subjects. The continuing education must include training in basic life support, CPR and infection control. However, not more than two of the 20 hours may be satisfied by CPR or basic life support training, nor may less than two hours of the training be in infection control.

The continuing education requirement does not apply the first time that a person applies to renew a license, but applies each time thereafter. The DEB may require applicants for renewal of a dental hygienist license to submit proof of compliance with the continuing education requirements.

Effective Date: Act 318 takes effect on April 21, 2006.

Prepared by: Laura Rose, Deputy Director

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LR:wu:jal

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.