SUCCEEDING WITH INFECTION CONTROL

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The Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners is serious about patient safety and preventing disease transmission in the dental setting. It is critical for licensees, and their clinic personnel to succeed in breaking the chain of infection and keep patients safe. Following the 2003 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for infection control in dental health-care settings is a great way to have a successful infection control program. In fact, when infection control inspectors for the dental board do an inspection at a dental facility, they are looking for compliance with these guidelines. Periodically CDC may publish updates to these guidelines or portions of the recommendations. For example in 2011 there were updates to the healthcare personnel vaccination recommendations. Attending well-rounded and researched continuing education courses taught by qualified individuals is a valuable resource to enhance your knowledge of infection control practices, as well as any recent updates to guidelines and recommendations.

Often times when infection control officers for the dental board are conducting a facility inspection, they find problems within the written infection control program. Having a written infection control program with clear policies and procedures ensures that personnel know what is expected. New hire training, and regular training needs to be done so that staff and licensees learn and use effective infection control practices. Someone must develop these written infection control policies specific to your dental location, and someone must update the plan at least annually.

The success of your infection control program is only as good as your weakest link. It is suggested that a program be implemented that observes and evaluates, to ensure that all persons involved with patient care and devices are following the written infection control policies and procedures developed for that specific location. Without evaluations, it is simply impossible to determine if your infection control program is working. The dental board highly encourages licensees to be the leader when it comes to infection control and must be present and available should your facility be selected for inspection.

Continually being proactive with infection control is the key. There are many resources to help you develop, update, and succeed with your infection control program. Most of the resources just require your time to read, learn, implement and evaluate. Here are a few resources to start you out on your mission to protect your patients, yourself, clinical personnel and to help you succeed with infection control.

http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/infectioncontrol/guidelines/index.htm
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/dentistry/standards.html
www.osap.org
The Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners has amended certain fees. The amended fees are listed below:

- Application and examination fee for a permit to administer general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation $750.00
- Application and examination fee for a site permit to administer general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation $1,200.00
- Fee for any re-inspection required by the Board to maintain a permit to administer general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation $500.00
- Biennial renewal fee for a permit to administer general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation $200.00
- Fee for the inspection of a facility required by the Board to renew a permit to administer general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation $350.00
- Annual license renewal fee for a limited license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene $200.00
- Reinstatement fee for a suspended license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene $300.00
- Reinstatement fee for a revoked license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene $500.00
- Reinstatement fee to return an inactive or retired dentists or dental hygienists to a dentist or a dental hygienist with a disability to active status $300.00

The Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners amended NAC 631.178 to include the same language contained in the random infection control inspections pursuant to NAC 631.179. Please review the amended regulation change that now includes paragraphs 5 as stated below:

5. Pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 218.172, if an initial inspection of an office or facility conducted pursuant to this section indicates that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, the President of the Board may, without any further action by the Board, issue an order of summary suspension of the license of the licensed dentist who owns the office or facility and the licensees of any or all of the other licensees employed at the office or facility pending proceedings for revocation or other action. An order for summary suspension issued by the President of the Board must contain findings of the exigent circumstances which warrant the issuance of the order for summary suspension. The President of the Board shall not participate in any further proceedings relating to the order.

To review the entire regulation (R020-14), you may view or download the document by visiting our website at dental.nv.gov.

The Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners has amended NAC 631.260 to add additional requirements for dental assistant personnel. Beginning July 1, 2014, all Nevada licensed dentists with an "active" status shall attest on their license renewal form, the dental assistant(s) personnel while so employed have received and completed the requirements pursuant to NAC 631.260. Please review the amended regulation that now includes the following:

(a) Containing the name of each person so employed, his or her position and the date he or she began to assist the licensee in radiographic procedures; and
(b) Certifying that each such employee has received:
- (1) Adequate instruction concerning radiographic procedures and is qualified to operate radiographic equipment as required pursuant to subsection 3 of NAC 631.532.
- (2) Training in infection control at least every 2 years while so employed;
- (3) A minimum of 4 hours of continuing education in infection control every 2 years while so employed; and
- (4) Before beginning such employment, a copy of this chapter and chapter 631 of NRS in paper or electronic format.

IN MEMORY OF:
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TO TREAT OR NOT TO TREAT? THAT IS THE DECISION
Shari Peterson RDH, M.Ed.

PRESERVATION MONITORING PROGRAM ANNUAL SELF QUERY NAC 631.045

All Nevada licensed dentists who hold a valid controlled Substance permit issued by the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy are now required to perform annually a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes of online substance abuse prevention training through the Pharmacy Task Force Prescription Monitoring Program for the issuance of controlled substances pursuant to NAC 631.045. The purpose of the self-query report is to ensure the controlled substances being prescribed by you are valid prescriptions, assist you in monitoring prescriptions that may be obtained through fraudulent means, or for potential patient drug shopping.

The licensed dentist who holds a valid Controlled Substance permit issued by the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy shall submit an attestation confirming compliance with this requirement on the dental license renewal form. Failure to conduct the self-query report annually shall be deemed unprofessional conduct pursuant to NAC 631.230.

If you are not signed up to access the Prescription Monitoring Program database, you may contact the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy Task Force to receive a username/password. The contact number for the Pharmacy Task Force is (775) 684-5694.

If you do not hold a valid Controlled Substance permit issued by the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy, you are not required to perform the annual self query. However, you may not issue controlled substances in the State of Nevada without holding a valid Controlled Substance Permit issued by the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy.

BOARD ACTIONS FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 — AUGUST 31, 2014

CRITIQUING THE RECORD: What is Critical Care Medicine? A critical care physician specializes in the care of critically ill patients in an intensive care unit. Critical care medicine is a subspecialty of internal medicine and involves the management of complex medical problems in critically ill patients. Critical care physicians work in collaboration with other medical specialists to provide comprehensive, coordinated care for patients in intensive care units.

One of the most frequent questions I receive from dental hygienists is regarding whether a hygienist can treat a patient. My first response is to review NAC 631.210 which lists all the duties delegable to a dental hygienist.

Section (1) specifies that the list of duties can only be performed by a dental hygienist if the patient has an examination by the dentist within the past 18 months. In section (3), the delegated duties can be performed by the dental hygienist under the authorization of the Nevada licensed dentist; the dentist does not need to have an examination by the dental hygienist at the time that the services are delivered. This means that a dental hygienist cannot see a new patient for hygiene services prior to the dentist providing the examination. The second issue regarding duties delegable to a dental hygienist falls in subsection (2) and (3) which can only be performed by a dental hygienist with the dentist supervision. Some of these procedures include bleaching of teeth, use of a laser, local anesthetics and nitrous oxide. The dentist must supervise through the duration of the procedures and must be readily available to respond to a medical emergency. So the decision to treat should be easy to make.

In 2010, the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners took a proactive measure to ensure patient safety by adopting initial and random infection control inspections of dental offices and facilities. However, there has been some confusion as to when an initial infection control inspection is required and how to request such an inspection.

First, the regulation requires not later than 30 days after a licensed dentist becomes the owner of an office or facility in this State where dental treatments are to be performed, other than a medical facility as defined in NRS 449.015, the licensed dentist MUST request in writing that the Board conduct an initial inspection of the office or facility to ensure compliance with the guidelines adopted by reference in NAC 631.178.

Therefore, you are required to request in writing to the Board no later than 30 days after the owner of a new office or facility or purchase an existing office or facility where dental treatments are to be performed that the Board conduct an initial infection control inspection to ensure compliance with the guidelines adopted by reference in NAC 631.178. The Board has a request form available on our website by visiting the "Infection Control" under the heading "Infection Control." Further, the Board has for your review the Infection Control Audit Form and a copy of the guide lines detailing the Infection Control items that are to be evaluated by the Infection Control Inspectors. It is available by visiting our website at dental.nv.gov under the heading "Infection Control."