

Iowa Board of Dental Examiners

Electronic Newsletter - Iowa Board of Dental Examiners



Thank you for registering

Thank you for registering to receive the Board's electronic newsletter. This newsletter is being provided in an attempt to provide licensees and registrants with the most current information regarding their license and registration.

2003 Board Meeting Dates

January 23

April 17

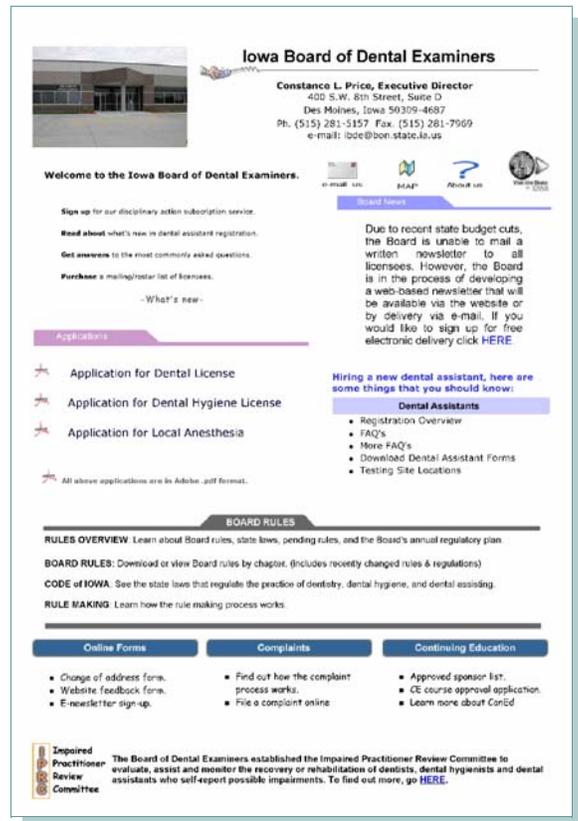
October 16

Dental Board launches new website

The Iowa Board of Dental Examiners recently launched a new website which offers more on-line information, answers to the most commonly asked questions, and access to more forms.

While on-line you can:

- Access the most current rules and regulations.
- Learn how the rule making process works.
- Download and print license applications.
- Submit a change of address request.
- Complete an on-line complaint form.
- Sign-up for free delivery of the Board's electronic newsletter.
- and much more...



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Dental Board to Form Access to Care Committee

The Iowa Board of Dental Examiners is interested in forming a committee to address access to care issues and develop a comprehensive plan to address access to dental care.

The members of the Board considered a petition for rulemaking filed by the Iowa

Dental Hygienists' Association and as a result of that review decided to form a committee to address issues raised in the petition. Speakers at the meeting agreed that a key component of any public health program is participation by the dentist. The Board noted that the main access

problem in the state right now appears to be getting dentists involved in providing diagnostic, restorative and other treatment needs in the underserved areas. Finding a dental home for patients is another significant problem.

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Dental Board Forms Access to Care Committee

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There are two sides to the access issue that need to be dealt with – prevention and treatment. The Board feels strongly that prevention without treatment does little to advance the oral health status of these population groups and could in some cases result in greater harm to those patients. The Board also notes that dental access is a broad-based problem in Iowa as well as the nation, with multiple factors contributing to the problem, including a shortage of

dental graduates, low Medicaid reimbursement rates, and inadequate funding for loan repayment programs.

Overall, the Board believes that the main access problem in Iowa and in other states is how to get more dentists involved in providing care in shortage areas and to underserved populations. Towards that end the Board will be formally exploring how other states are attempting to resolve problems with access to dental care. The Board received informa-

tion that the American Dental Association recently passed a resolution to address this issue on a national level and the Board understands that the Iowa Department of Public Health has also formed a Dental Advisory Committee to look at access issues.

If your area has a program in place to address these issues, please let the Board know. The information will be shared with the committee, which is in the process of being formed.

Have Some Dental Assisting Questions? We Want to Help.

The board office receives calls from individuals with a variety of questions concerning dental assisting. The board staff has put together a list of frequently asked questions to provide some answers to these inquiries. Below are some examples.

Can I remain on trainee status after my expiration? No. Trainee status lasts for six months total. It is your responsibility to become registered after that time. Trainee status is a one-time opportunity. Once that time has lapsed, you must complete registration before you can continue work as a dental as-

sistant.

When can I apply for registration? If you are a trainee without any formal education, you can turn in your application for registration approximately one month prior to your expiration. It is a good idea to allow a minimum of two weeks for our office to process your application. This will avoid missed work after your expiration.

Can I get my exam results over the phone or by fax? No. Exam results are confidential and we cannot ensure confidentiality via fax or telephone.

Are application fees refundable? No. It is not our policy to refund fees submitted to our office.

What kind of CPR certification am I required to maintain? The board requires BCLS certification. You do not need any advanced training to meet board requirements.

The board has made the full list of questions available at:

http://www.state.ia.us/dentalboard/DA_FAQ's2003.html

Continuing Education Information for Dental Assistant Renewal in 2003

The Board would like to remind all dental assistants of the continuing education and renewal requirements. All dental assistants must renew their registration by June 30, 2003, to continue to practice. Dental assistants must also renew their qualification in dental radiography at that time.

All dental assistants must meet the requirements for renewal, which are: 1) pay the renewal fee; 2) submit a timely application for renewal; 3) provide proof of current certification in CPR; 4) provide evidence of obtaining mandatory training in child/dependent adult abuse reporting and identification; and 5) ob-

tain continuing education, unless exempt; dental assistants who passed the examinations for registration are exempt from the continuing education requirements.

Dental assistants who did not complete the exams after July 1, 2001, must complete 20 hours of continuing education to renew registration. Most dental assistants fall in this category because they were "grandfathered" in by registering prior to July 1, 2001. Of the 20 continuing education hours needed, the board requires one hour in jurisprudence and two hours in infection control. If you have a qualification in dental radiography, you must

also obtain two hours of continuing education in dental radiography, unless you took the radiography examination after July 1, 2001. All required courses count towards the total 20 hours needed. However, CPR can only be counted for a maximum of three hours of continuing education.

For more information about the continuing education requirements, including a list of approved sponsors, visit the Board website at: http://www.state.ia.us/dentalboard/con_ed.html



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400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite D
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4687

Phone: 515-281-5157

Fax: 515-281-7969

Email: IBDE@bon.state.ia.us

We Need your Input!

The Iowa Board of Dental Examiners created this newsletter to provide useful information to all licensees and registrants in the state of Iowa. The Board welcomes all suggestions for possible inclusion in future newsletters. The Board wants to provide you with the information that you need. If you have any thoughts or ideas please feel free to contact us with your comments.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.IA.US/DENTALBOARD](http://www.state.ia.us/dentalboard)
