

Bulletin

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners Abuse and Neglect Continuing Education Requirements

(Authority: Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, § 4-205 (a)(5) and the Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 10, Subtitle 44, Chapter 22)

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners and its licensees are committed to ensuring that Maryland's citizens receive quality dental care and enjoy good health in safe surroundings. As part of that commitment the Board is concerned that many of the States' most vulnerable citizens have or will become the victims of domestic abuse and neglect. The Board therefore strongly believes that each Maryland dentist and dental hygienist should receive formal training, in the form of continuing education, in the area of abuse and neglect.

Beginning with the 2011 license renewal cycle the Board required that each Maryland dentist and dental hygienist complete a Board-approved 2 hour continuing education course in abuse and neglect relating to Maryland law. The course must be completed again during every other renewal cycle. Those who renewed their license in 2011 must complete the course again during the 2015 renewal cycle, and again during the 2019 renewal cycle, and so on. Those who renewed their license in 2012 must complete the course again during the 2016 renewal cycle, and again during the 2020 renewal cycle, and so on. The course will help licensees recognize the problem, help treat it, and advise licensees of the obligation to report abuse and neglect of their patients to the proper authorities.

The 30 hours of continuing education required to renew a dental or dental hygiene license were not increased as a result of this regulation. Prior to this change the Board would accept up to 15 hours of continuing education credits for self-study activities including internet courses. The allowance has been increased to 17 hours to permit on-line completion of the course. Note however that the course must be Board-approved.

Dentists who have questions should call Ms. Deborah Welch, Dentist Licensing Coordinator at 410-402-8511. Dental Hygienists with questions should call Ms. Sandra Sage, Dental Hygienist Coordinator at 410-402-8510.