

South Carolina Dentistry News

LLR An online newsletter published by the South Carolina Board of Dentistry.

Mission Statement

To protect the public health, safety, and welfare in the State of South Carolina by the licensure and regulation of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental technicians.

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www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry

Board Member News 2016

The Board welcomes its newest members: Jessica Keisler, RDH dental hygienist, at-large; and Dr. Phillip M. Prickett, Congressional District One. The Board has 11 members and is comprised of eight dentists, two registered dental hygienists, and one public member. Board seats designated for election in 2017 include Congressional District Two and public member.

Dental Board Welcomes New Administrator

The Dental Board welcomes Dr. Rita A. Melton as its new administrator for the Board of Dentistry. Dr. Melton also administers the Veterinary Medical Examiners Board and the Pilotage Commission. She is dual credentialed as a licensed general dentist and a registered nurse.

Dr. Melton is a 1989 Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine graduate and completed her two-year general practice residency in 1991. She practiced clinical dentistry in Columbia and the Lexington County area for a number of years.

Dr. Melton served as the Dean of Health and Human Services in higher education for 18 years. She joined LLR in November 2014 as an investigator in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement and was promoted to her new position in May 2016.

LLR Welcomes New Interim Director

Emily H. Farr was appointed as the interim director of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation by Governor Nikki R. Haley on August 8, 2016. Farr is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Farr came to LLR from Haynsworth-Sinkler-Boyd, P.A., where she focused on employment advice and counsel, consumer financial services litigation, and title insurance defense. While at the law firm, Farr provided advice and counsel to human resource professionals and employers to identify practical solutions to workplace issues, including drafting company policies and procedures, assisting with the preparation and implementation of employee handbooks, and preparing restrictive covenants, severance agreements and independent contractor agreements.

Farr graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law where she was a Petigru Scholarship recipient and served on The South Carolina Law Review as the Student Works Editor. She was also a member of the Order of Wig and Robe and the Order of the Coif.

Special Note

The Board appreciates all the hard work of its president, Dr. Vance Morgan, and Board Administrative Assistant Lisa Hawsey during the transition to a new administrator. Hawsey, the personification of dedication, commitment, and professionalism, helped ensure the daily activities and scheduled events of the Board stayed on track. Thank you for your continued service!

Retirements

Congratulations to Kitty Cox and Annie Heyward on their recent, and well-deserved, retirements from LLR. Cox served as Administrator and Heyward served as Administrative Assistant. Many of you interacted with one or both of them when you formally, or informally, contacted the Board. They, along with Hawsey, were the "engine" that kept the "train" running on schedule, serving tirelessly to provide invaluable service for the Board. Thank you both, and we wish you continued success and joy in this rewarding stage of your lives.

License Renewal for 2017 – 2019 and Random CE Audit Mark the Dates/Penalty Free "Before" January 1, 2017

Mark your calendar as state license renewal time is just around the corner. The biennial renewal for 2017-2019 is **October 3, 2016 to February 28, 2017**. To avoid late fees, renew online or have your registration postmarked no later than **December 31, 2016**.

Late fee penalties will be applied on **January 1, 2017** for licenses not renewed. The fees are increased for non-renewed licenses on **February 1, 2017**. If your license is not renewed before March 1, 2017, your license will lapse. If you have had any malpractice or other lawsuits against you or your practice since your last license renewal, you will have to provide detailed documentation of this information with your license renewal application.

If you do not receive a license renewal notice by October 1, 2016, please contact the Board of Dentistry to obtain the renewal registration. Please remember, **LLR has a "no excuse" policy** for license renewal. The Board conducts the random continuing education audits for all credential types following the renewal period. If you are selected for an audit, you will be required to submit verification of classes taken.

NEW CHANGES

Dental Practice Act - SC Code of Regulations 39-5 and 39-10 - Amended and Passed May 27, 2016

SC Code of Regulation 39-5 (F) (1) (a) and 39 (F) (1) (b) were amended (bold area):

(1) All dentists shall complete a minimum of fourteen (14) continuing education hours per year or twenty-eight (28) continuing education hours over two (2) years; dental hygienists shall complete a minimum of seven (7) continuing education hours per year or fourteen (14) over two (2) years; dental technicians shall complete a minimum of four (4) continuing education hours per year or eight (8) continuing education hours over two (2) years, in order to be eligible for relicensure or reregistration. Upon licensure by examination of this State, dentists, dental hygienists and dental technicians shall be exempt from continuing education requirements for the first relicensure period.

(a) All licensed dentists and dental hygienists must have at least two (2) hours of their required continuing education to be dedicated to sterilization and infection control.

(b) It is the responsibility of all dentists to ensure that their auxiliary staff who may be exposed to blood and other body fluids require and provide two (2) hours biennially of continuing education on sterilization and infection control and maintain records of such training.

SC Code of Regulation 39-10 (A) (1) and 39-10 (A) (2) were amended (Bold area):

(1) All dental practices shall conform to and comply with the current recommendations and guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) relating to infection control practices for dentistry and/or dental offices.

(2) It is the responsibility of all dentists and dental hygienists licensed by the State and all other personnel who are utilized by a licensed dentist who assist in a dental practice and may be exposed to body fluids such as blood or saliva to maintain familiarity with these recommendations and guidelines.

Full wording of regulations is posted on the Dental Board website under "Laws/Policies" at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry .

General Information

The Board is a dedicated coalition of dentists, dental hygienists and a public member whose first charge is the public safety of the citizens of South Carolina. With the exception of the public member, the Board members are active in the daily practice of dentistry. All seven of the congressional districts are represented on the Board. In addition, some members are chosen at-large.

The Board welcomes and invites communication from licensees and other members of the public. Board meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates, agendas and Board minutes are available at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry .

Dental Sedation Act - Article 3 in the Dental Practice Act

The Dental Sedation Act has passed and is now Article 3 in the South Carolina Dentistry Board's Practice Act. Article 3 is a step forward towards better patient safety and care in dentistry. In summary, the Dental Sedation Act requires dentists who offer sedation in their dental offices to hold a permit and submit to biennial inspections. Dental sedation permits will be issued upon demonstration of necessary equipment as outlined in the statute, along with applicable education and life support training. The Dental Sedation Act mandates continuing education and training requirements for dentists and their office staff involved in sedation procedures. The requirements will be tailored toward the level of sedation offered by the dentist in his or her office.

The Board is working on the new guidelines for the Moderate Parenteral and Moderate Enteral Sedation and Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia as outlined in Article 3 (Dental Sedation Act). The application and permit information for being able to administer these types of sedation will be available by December 2016 on the Dental Board website.

The Board would like to thank all of the individuals who have given tirelessly of their time in working on the sedation legislation and in working with the legislators in the General Assembly in drafting the amendments to the regulations to ensure patient safety is priority one. If you have questions, send them to: SC LLR Board of Dentistry, 110 Centerview Drive, PO Box 11329, Columbia, SC 29211-1329; or email them to Rita.Melton@llr.sc.gov

Continuing Topics of Interest

Advertising: The Board continues to receive questions and complaints related to advertising on signage, websites, brochures, newspaper ads, etc. The Code of Ethics in Regulation 39-11-4 (C) of the S. C. Code of Regulations states, "Dentists who choose to announce specialization should use "specialist in" and shall limit their practice exclusively to the announced special area(s) of dental practice, provided at the time of the announcement such dentists have met, in each approved specialty, the existing educational requirements and standards set forth by the American Dental Association for which they announce."

The Code of Ethics in Regulation 39-11-4 (D) of the S. C. Code of Regulations states, "General dentists who wish to announce the services available in their practices are permitted to announce the availability of those services so long as they avoid any communications that express or imply specialization (ex: Advanced). General dentists shall also state that the services are being provided by general dentists. No dentist shall announce available services in any way that would be false or misleading in any material respect. The phrase "practice limited to" shall be avoided.

Coupon Use:

- 1) **Office-Specific coupons** are allowable and may be used to offer specials discounts or promotions to patients (For example, 10% senior citizen discounts, free new patient exams, etc.). When submitting the treatment fee to the insurance company, the fee may not be increased to the usual customary fee in order to make up the difference between the reduced fee and the customary fee. The fee submitted to the insurance company should reflect the actual treatment and the fee the patient was charged for the treatment.
- 2) **Rebates and Split Fees:** The Code of Ethics in Regulation 39-11, 1-H of the S. C. Code of Regulations states "Dentists shall not accept or tender 'rebates' or 'split fees.' **This includes social coupons** (ex: Groupons). A violation of the Principles of Ethics as promulgated in the Code of Regulations is grounds for misconduct." The ADA also has a position statement regarding this information.

Botox and Other Injectable Materials: The Board has a policy on the limitations of use and delivery of these products and injectable materials by licensees. The policy states, in general, that injection of these materials is limited to the perioral area, must be for a dental purpose, must be performed by a licensed general dentist, and must be performed only where a bona fide dentist-patient relationship has been established. The Board is reviewing and researching these therapies as used by other states and is in the process of evaluating its current policies on these injectable substances to determine whether to expand their use in TMD and TMJ disorders.

Further review of the Board's laws/policies can be found at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry .

Board Approved X-ray Courses

The Board no longer issues radiography certificates. Successful completion of a course from any of the following structured programs meets the requirements of the SC Dental Practice Act:

- American Dental Association (ADA)-accredited schools and their constituents
- Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB)
- South Carolina Dental Association (SCDA)

Radiography courses and x-ray certification are offered through the South Carolina Dental Association. Contact the SCDA at (803) 750-2277 or visit its website at www.scda.org .

Application by Credentials

Applicants applying by Credentials should note that under South Carolina law, SC Code Ann. § 40-15-275(A)(5), an applicant applying by credentials must not be the subject of ANY final or pending disciplinary action in the military or any state or territory in which the applicant has held any other professional license. This applies to applicants for dentistry of any type or for dental hygienists who have or have had licensure in another state(s). If there has been final or pending disciplinary action, a possible alternative is retaking the clinical examinations recognized by South Carolina. Examination scores are valid for five years.

Actions by Final Order of the Board for 2016

All Final Public Orders issued by the Board are posted in full on the Board's website www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry
Below are the Board Orders to date in 2016.

3/18/2016	SCOTT, ROBERT WAYNE	DGD	282
3/18/2016	SCHRAW, BRIANNA L	DGD	3909
3/18/2016	CAUTHEN, LEWIS JACKSON III	DGD	2525
6/2/2016	WISNER, JAMES BRADLEY	DGD	3916
6/2/2016	SMITH, JAMES RONALD	DGD	1659
6/2/2016	MILLER, WILLIAM ROBERT	DGD	3452
6/2/2016	DALEY, SCOTTIE JOHNSON	DH	1820
7/18/2016	MCDONALD, CEDRICK BROWN	DGD	4382

Board Policies/Guidelines

The Board of Dentistry has the authority and jurisdiction over licensure and the practice of dentistry in South Carolina directed by its statutes and regulations. The Board also has policies/guidelines to support the laws on its website. You may find it useful to refer to these when you have questions on different topics. Some of the policies include: Botox, dermal fillers, lasers, patient dental records, CE/CPR compliance and office ownership. Future newsletters will address other hot topics in dentistry.

Board Meetings 2016-2017

October 14, 2016
January 20, 2017
April 14, 2017
July 14, 2017
October 13, 2017

Online Services

The services listed below are available online 24 hours a day, seven days per week at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry .

- Online Initial Application for Licensure
- Online Initial Mobile Dental Unit Applications
- Online Initial Portable Dental Unit Applications
- Online Renewals (when applicable)
- Online Jurisprudence Examination
- Licensee Lookup
- License Verification Request
- Check Status of Application
- Change of Address

South Carolina Board of Dentistry Statistics as of September 28, 2016

Profession	Number in SC to date
Licensed General Dentists	3247
Licensed Dental Hygienists	4012
Dental Assistants	4988
Registered Dental Laboratory Technicians	263
Registered Orthodontic Technicians	9

**2016-2017
EXAMINATION SCHEDULES**

Specialty Board Examination for Dentistry

The South Carolina Specialty Board Examinations are administered twice per year at the Board Office, Kingstree Building. Cost - \$300. If you have questions, contact the Board Office at (803) 896-4599.

Application Deadline	Examination Administered
November 17, 2016	January 27, 2017
May 19, 2017	July 21, 2017

Dental Hygienists Infiltration Anesthesia Certification Examination

The South Carolina Dental Hygienists Infiltration Anesthesia Certification Examination is a written examination administered four times per year at the Board Office, Kingstree Building. Applications must be received no later than three weeks prior to examination. A dental hygienist must have graduated from an ADA-accredited dental hygiene program and hold a current South Carolina dental hygiene license. Applicants for this exam must submit official transcripts documenting their dental hygiene degree and a copy of their South Carolina Dental Hygiene License Certificate along with their application and a fee of \$25. If you have questions, contact the Board office at (803) 896-4599.

*Licensed Dental Hygienists may also take the Nitrous Oxide Certification Exam on the same day as their Infiltration Anesthesia Certification Exam. A Nitrous Oxide Certification Application must be submitted at the same time as the Infiltration Anesthesia Certification Application along with the \$25 application fee for each exam taken by the applicant, in order to be eligible to take the examinations on the same day.

Application Deadline	Examination Administered
October 27, 2016	November 17, 2016
January 26, 2017	February 16, 2017
April 27, 2017	May 18, 2017
July 27, 2017	August 17, 2017
October 26, 2017	November 16, 2017

Nitrous Oxide Certification Examination

The South Carolina Nitrous Oxide Certification Examination is a written exam administered at various locations within the State such as the technical colleges, MUSC and the Board Office. If you have questions, contact the Board office at (803) 896-4599.

Dental Technician Examination

The South Carolina Dental Technician Examination is a written exam administered at the Board Office. If you have questions, contact the Board office at (803) 896-4599.

Board of Dentistry
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(803) 896-4599; (Fax) (803) 896-4719

The South Carolina Board of Dentistry website is www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry