

# **BULLETIN**

## **Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners**

### **Change in Continuing Education Requirements for Dentists and Dental Hygienists**

#### **THIS BULLETIN AMENDS THE PREVIOUS BULLETIN AND NOW INCLUDES THOSE WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO RENEW THEIR DENTAL OR DENTAL HYGIENE LICENSE IN 2027**

These Frequently Asked Questions are intended to provide dentists and dental hygienists with a **brief summary** of the significant changes to the continuing education regulations that took effect on **March 3, 2025**. This document is not a comprehensive review of the regulations. You are strongly encouraged to read the attached regulations titled Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.44.22 Continuing Education in their entirety. References are to the attached regulations.

#### **What are the New Infection Control Course Requirements?**

The required number of hours for the infection control course has increased from 2 to 3 hours. The infection control course must be taken as a condition of license renewal (.04M). The course must be a single 3-hour Board-approved course (.04BB). All courses must be Board-approved (.04A). The required number of continuing education hours remains at 30 (.04B).

#### **What is the Time Frame for Completing Continuing Education?**

Prior to the recent changes, the 2-year time to complete your continuing education ended on December 31st of the year preceding the year of your license renewal. The present period will coincide directly with the renewal period. Therefore, the new timeframe for completing continuing education extends for 2 years from July 1 through June 30 of the second year following the effective date of your renewal (.05).

#### **Is there an Exception for Those Renewing their Dental and Dental Hygiene licenses in 2025, 2026, and 2027?**

Yes. Notwithstanding the effective date of these regulations, because of unexpected delays in finalizing the regulations, those who are **scheduled to renew their dental or dental hygiene license in 2025** may receive continuing education credit for Board-approved courses completed between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2025. In addition, you will be considered to have met the infection control requirement if you completed a single Board-approved 2-hour infection control course, or if you completed two one-hour Board-approved infection control courses in lieu of the Board-approved 3-hour infection control course.

Notwithstanding the effective date of these regulations, because of unexpected delays in finalizing the regulations, those who are **scheduled to renew their dental or dental hygiene license in 2026** may receive continuing education credit for Board-approved courses completed between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2026. In addition, you will be considered to have met the infection control requirement if you completed a single Board-approved 2-hour infection control course, or if you completed two one-hour Board-approved infection control courses in lieu of the Board-approved 3-hour infection control course.

Notwithstanding the effective date of these regulations, because of unexpected delays in finalizing the regulations, those who are **scheduled to renew their dental or dental hygiene license in 2027** may receive continuing education credit for Board-approved courses completed between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2027. In addition, you will be considered to have met the infection control requirement if you completed a single Board-approved 2-hour infection control course, or if you completed two one-hour Board-approved infection control courses in lieu of the Board-approved 3-hour infection control course.

| <b>Renew License by</b> | <b>Time Frame to Complete 30 Hours of CE and to Complete Either a Two-Hour Board-Approved Infection Control Course, Two Board-Approved One-Hour Infection Control Courses, or a Single Board-Approved 3-Hour Infection Control Course</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 30, 2025 Renewal   | January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| June 30, 2026 Renewal   | January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| June 30, 2027 Renewal   | January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### **How do I Receive Board Approval to Sponsor a Continuing Education Course?**

Continuing education sponsors who are not automatically approved must apply to the Board for approval of their CE courses and the instructors of those courses at least 90 days before the date they seek approval on a form approved by the Board. Board approval is for both the course and the instructor. If the instructor changes or there is a significant change in the course material or course objectives, the sponsor must resubmit an application (.09A— I). Those programs that are automatically approved are identified in Regulation .08A.

If you are interested in seeking Board approval for a continuing education program, complete the Application for Continuing Education Course Approval, which may be found at <https://health.maryland.gov/dental>, and choose Licensure Information. The requirements can be found on the right side under Continuing Education.

**May I Receive Continuing Education Credit for Attending an Open Session of the Board?**

Yes, a licensee may receive 1 hour of continuing education credit for attendance at a regularly scheduled open session of the Board in its entirety, with a maximum of 2 continuing education credits per renewal cycle (.04W—X).

**Does the Board Audit Continuing Education Records?**

The Board will audit a percentage of dentists and dental hygienists each renewal cycle to verify compliance with the continuing education regulations (.13C—E).

**Violations**

A false, misleading, or deceptive statement on a renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation form, or failure to timely complete continuing education requirements within the specified time or within the time granted by any extension, may constitute unprofessional conduct and may result in disciplinary action against the licensee (.13O).