

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

### **Summary of Recent Developments in the Law Regarding the Administration of Nitrous Oxide**

During the 2016 legislative session the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 470, chapter 106, which permits licensed dental hygienists to administer nitrous oxide to dental patients under certain prescribed circumstances. The following is a summary of the law and the recently enacted regulations. It is not intended to be exhaustive. Please refer to the actual law and the regulations.

- Under House Bill 470 a dental hygienist must complete the educational requirements established by the Board through an accredited dental hygiene program.
- A dental hygienist who is recognized by the Board to administer nitrous oxide will be able to do so only under the supervision of a dentist who is physically on the premises and who prescribes the administration of nitrous oxide by the dental hygienist.
- The dental hygienist may not leave the operatory during the administration or monitoring of the nitrous oxide except in emergency circumstances.
- To be recognized by the Board to administer nitrous oxide to a dental patient a Maryland licensed dental hygienist must:
  - Complete a six-hour Board-approved course of instruction on the administration of nitrous oxide through an accredited dental hygiene program; and
  - Submit proof of having passed the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (or its successor organization) Nitrous Oxide Examination for Dental Hygienists; and
  - Submit a Board-approved application along with a one-time \$50 application fee. The recognition will not expire.
- A dental hygienist licensed in Maryland who is licensed or certified in another state to administer nitrous oxide may administer nitrous oxide in Maryland without completing the 6-hour Board-approved course under certain prescribed circumstances. Those affected should call the Board for additional information.
- Those who hold Board recognition to monitor nitrous oxide may continue to monitor the administration of nitrous oxide by a dentist but they may not administer nitrous oxide until they meet the Board's requirements and receive Board recognition to administer nitrous oxide.
  
- Notice for those who currently hold a recognition to monitor the administration of nitrous oxide issued by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners : If you: 1) currently hold a recognition to monitor the administration of nitrous oxide and 2) you have passed the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments Nitrous Oxide Examination for Dental hygienists, you may qualify for a recognition to administer nitrous oxide with the \$50 fee waived. You should submit a completed application to the Board along with your original certificate to monitor nitrous oxide.

If you are a dental hygienist and are interested in becoming recognized to administer nitrous oxide, or you are a dentist and have any questions, you are urged to contact either Ms. Sandra Sage, Dental Hygienist Coordinator at 410-402-8510, or Ms. Debbie Welch, Licensing Coordinator at 410-402-8511.

Thank you.