

## Frequently Asked Questions on Rule 150-5-.07 for Administration of Local Anesthetic by Georgia Dental Hygienists

**Q: I have local anesthetic certification from another state, but it is less than the 60 hours required by GA, how do I get the additional hours to meet the GA certification status?**

**A:** You will need to attend a continuing education course to supplement the educational and or practical experience your certification is deficient in. The GA Board of Dentistry (BOD) requires (30) didactic hours, fifteen (15) laboratory hours, and fifteen (15) clinical hours required by the Board.

**\*\* Following is a PDF GDHA created to help clinicians see where they may need to pick up hours to meet the 60-hour BOD requirements.**

**Q: Do I need to submit my local anesthetic certification to the Board of Dentistry?**

**A:** The BOD does not require submission of local anesthesia certification. **Prior to delegation of local anesthetic agents administered by the dental hygienist, is up to the supervising dentist and the dental hygienist to ensure all educational and practical experience requirements by the BOD have been met.**

**Q: Am I required to have malpractice insurance to administer local anesthetic?**

**A:** The BOD does not require malpractice insurance for the administration of local anesthetic by dental hygienists, but they recommend all GA licensed dental professionals carry malpractice insurance. **\*\* <https://www.hpsso.com/Insurance-for-you/Individual-Practitioners/Dental-Hygienists>**

**Q: Do I need to display a copy of my local anesthetic certification at the facility where I will be administering local anesthesia?**

**A:** Although certification indicates certain requirements and professional standards have been met, the BOD does not require local anesthetic certification to be displayed.

**Q: Since authorization for local anesthetic only became effective June 1, 2023, and this is a licensure renewal year, do I have to complete the 2 hours of local anesthetic continuing education required by the Board for this biennium?**

**A:** If local anesthetic coursework was taken during the current 2023 biennium an additional 2 hour continuing education course in the review of local anesthetic techniques, contraindications, systemic complications, medical emergencies related to local anesthesia, and a general overview of dental office emergencies is not required for the 2023 biennium but will be required for each biennium thereafter.

**Q: Does the Board need to be notified by the hygienist or dentist that the hygienist is certified to administer local anesthetic?**

**A:** No. It is up to the supervising dentist to ensure the educational and practical experience requirements have been met by the dental hygienist.

**Q: If I am audited by the BOD will I have to show evidence of my anesthetic certification?**

**A:** No. It is up to the supervising dentist to ensure educational and practical experience requirements for administration of local anesthetic have been met.

**Q: Does my local anesthetic certification have to be renewed? If so, how often?**

**A:** The BOD does not require renewal of local anesthetic certification. However, a two (2) hour of BOD approved continuing education course which includes a review of local anesthetic techniques, contraindications, systemic complications, medical emergencies related to local anesthesia, and a general overview of dental office emergencies is required each biennium.

**Q: What are the requirements for dental hygienists in GA to administer local anesthetic in GA?**

**A:** Rule 150-5-.07. Administration of Local Anesthetic by Dental Hygienist states:

- (1) A dental hygienist, under the direct supervision of a Georgia licensed dentist, may administer local anesthesia for hygiene purposes, including intraoral block anesthesia, soft tissue infiltration anesthesia, or both, to a non-sedated patient that requires local anesthesia for pain management and who is 18 years of age or older if the following criteria are met.
- (2) Educational and Practical Experience Requirements:
  - (a) Graduate of an approved curriculum program.
    1. Dental hygiene anesthesia courses or programs required for dental hygienists licensed in Georgia to qualify to administer local anesthesia:
      - (i) Shall be taught using lecture and laboratory/clinical formats by a dental education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (ADA) or its successor agency, a similar organization approved by the United States Department of Education, or the Board.
      - (ii) The requirements shall include, at a minimum, sixty (60) hours of coursework comprised of thirty (30) didactic hours, fifteen (15) laboratory hours, and fifteen (15) clinical hours which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
        - (I) Theory of pain control;
        - (II) Selection-of-pain-control modalities;
        - (III) Anatomy;
        - (IV) Neurophysiology;
        - (V) Pharmacology of local anesthetics;
        - (VI) Pharmacology of vasoconstrictors;
        - (VII) Psychological aspects of pain control;

- (VIII) Systemic complications;
  - (IX) Techniques of maxillary anesthesia;
  - (X) Techniques of mandibular anesthesia;
  - (XI) Infection control;
  - (XII) Safety Injection practices; and
  - (XIII) Medical emergencies involving local anesthesia.
- (iii) Laboratory and clinical instruction shall be provided with a faculty to student ratio of no greater than 1:5 under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in this state.
  - (iv) Courses must be taught to a minimum score of eighty percent (80%) in the parenteral administration of local anesthesia, and successful students shall be awarded a certificate of completion.
- (3) Continuing Education: Dental hygienists administering local anesthesia pursuant to this rule, must complete two (2) hours of approved continuing education per biennium, which shall include a review of local anesthetic techniques, contraindications, systemic complications, medical emergencies related to local anesthesia, and a general overview of dental office emergencies. These hours may be used as part of the twenty-two (22) hours of continuing education required each biennium.

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/150-5-.07?urlRedirected=yes&data=admin&lookingfor=150-5-.07>