

1 21 NCAC 16I .0201 is amended as published in 37:16 NCR 1104 as follows:

2
3 **SECTION .0200 – CONTINUING EDUCATION**
4

5 **21 NCAC 16I .0201 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED**

6 (a) As a condition of license renewal, each dental hygienist shall complete six clock hours of continuing education
7 each calendar year. ~~Any or all the~~ The hours may be acquired through self-study self-study courses. To count toward
8 the mandatory continuing education requirement, self-study self-study courses shall be related to clinical patient care
9 and offered by a ~~board approved~~ Board-approved sponsor, sponsor listed in Rule .0202 of this Section. The dental
10 hygienist shall pass a test ~~following the course administered by the course sponsor~~ and obtain a certificate of
11 completion completion from the sponsor.

12 (b) ~~Current~~ An unexpired certification in CPR is required in addition to the mandatory continuing education hours.

13 (c) ~~A dental hygienist who can demonstrate a disabling condition may request a variance in required continuing~~
14 ~~education hours during a particular period. Written documentation of a disabling condition that interferes with the~~
15 ~~hygienist's ability to complete the required hours shall be provided to the Board. The Board may grant or deny such~~
16 ~~requests on a case by case basis, depending upon the nature of the disabling condition, its impact on the hygienist's~~
17 ~~ability to complete continuing education, and the likely duration of the disability. Upon receipt of a written request~~
18 from the dental hygienist, the Board will grant exemptions from the requirements set out in this Rule and in Rule .0206
19 of this Section as follows:

20 (1) A dental hygienist who practices not more than 250 clock hours in a calendar year shall be classified
21 as a semi-retired dental hygienist, and shall:

22 (A) be exempt from the requirement set out in Paragraph (a) of this Rule to complete six clock
23 hours of continuing education each calendar year; and

24 (B) maintain an unexpired CPR certification.

25 (2) A retired dental hygienist who does not practice any dental hygiene shall be exempt from all
26 continuing education and CPR certification requirements.

27 (d) ~~If a licensee dental hygienist who has been exempted from continuing education requirements wishes to resume~~
28 ~~practice, the licensee shall complete~~ Board shall require an unexpired CPR certification and continuing education
29 courses for the calendar year in which he or she resumes practice in accordance with this Rule. Rule and Rule .0206
30 of this Section when reclassifying the dental hygienist. A dental hygienist who has been classified as retired and wishes
31 to resume practice shall satisfy the reinstatement requirements of 21 NCAC 16C .0601. ~~The Board may require~~
32 ~~licensees who have not practiced dental hygiene for more than a year to undergo a clinical test before allowing the~~
33 ~~licensee to resume practice if there is evidence that the licensee suffers from addiction or a mental or physical condition~~
34 ~~that impairs the licensee's ability to practice hygiene competently.~~

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36 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-225.1; 90-229;*

37 *Eff. May 1, 1994;*

1 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2015; November 1, 2008; April 1, 2001; August 1, 1998;*
2 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9,*
3 *2018;*
4 *Recodified from 21 NCAC 16I .0102 Eff. January 1, ~~2020~~2020;*
5 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2023.*