

Process for Dental Hygienists to Apply for Certification to Administer Local Anesthetics

Failure to read instructions in their entirety could result in your documents being rejected and returned!

There are two ways to qualify for certification to administer local anesthetics:

In-state training

Submit a certificate of completion from any North Carolina course that meets the following requirements:

- *Taught using lecture and laboratory or clinical formats at the University of North Carolina Adams School of Dentistry, the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine, or a dental hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), or a similar organization approved by the United States Department of Education.*
- *Includes, at a minimum, a 30-hour session composed of 16 didactic hours and 14 clinical hours. Clinical instruction shall be provided by a dentist holding a DDS or DMD degree, and the faculty-to-student ratio shall be no greater than 1:5 for the laboratory and clinical instruction.*
- *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.*

Once you obtain the "Certificate of Completion," submit it along with your NC dental hygiene license number to: zalexander@ncdentalboard.org Please reference "Local Anesthetics Certification" in the subject line.

Courses offered in other States or through Continuing Education

Submit documentation from any state that provides satisfactory evidence of the required education, training, and clinical qualification to provide local anesthetics. **Course must have been taken no more than five years ago unless hygienist has been practicing and administering local anesthetics for the past two years.** This documentation must include:

- **Evidence that you have been practicing dental hygiene, as defined in G.S. 90-221, under the supervision of a licensed dentist for a minimum of two years immediately preceding the date of the application. ****
- *You have successfully completed a course of study on local anesthetics offered through a school or college approved by the United States Department of Education or a Board-approved continuing education provider that includes all the following:*
 - *a. A minimum of 16 lecture hours on pharmacology, physiology, equipment, block and infiltration techniques, legal issues, and medical emergencies, including systemic complications.*
 - *b. A minimum of eight clinical hours of instruction and experience in administering local anesthesia injections.*
 - **Completion of at least 12 block and 12 infiltration injections under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist who must certify the applicant's competency. *****

Submit the documentation detailing the satisfaction of each of these requirements, along with your NC Dental Hygiene license number to Zaibun Alexander at zalexander@ncdentalboard.org. Please reference "Local Anesthetics certification" in the subject line.

****If you have not been practicing for at least 2 years, you must either wait until that time or receive training under the In-state option.** Link to [affidavit](#).

*****Hygienists may not administer local anesthetics until certified to do so. The required number of "practice" infiltration and block injections must be administered during the training course and must be supervised by the teaching dentist. Under no circumstances may a dental hygienist administer injections to live patients prior to completing training and educational requirements and being certified to do so. For example: a hygienist **may not** complete the didactic portion of the training course then allow the employing dentist to supervise and certify injections administered to patients in the dentist's private practice to complete the clinical portion of the training.**

Effective Dates:

The law states that this certification may only be granted to licenses that are **issued or renewed** after October 1, 2021. You may submit your documentation at any time. However, the wording of the statute means that if you are a NC Registered Dental Hygienist you cannot get certified until you renew your license. Since the license renewal period for 2022 does not start until November 1, 2021, this is the earliest possible date for NC dental hygienists to have "Certified to Administer Local Anesthetics" printed on your renewal certificate.

However, the Board encourages you not to wait to renew your license. If you are currently enrolled or plan to enroll in a course that meets local anesthetic requirements, you can submit course completion documentation later. **There is no additional cost for submitting this documentation and reprinting your renewal certificate any time during the year.** The advice from the Board is to help you avoid the risk of a late renewal fee (imposed after January 31st of each year) by renewing early and submitting local anesthetic documentation later.

Once you have submitted your documentation, please allow up to 10 business days for processing.

Please note:

- Courses that qualify to teach local anesthetic administration must be taught by a school or college approved by the U.S. Department of Education or a Board-approved Continuing Education Provider. "In-service" or office-based programs do not meet the standard mandated by the statute.
- Hygienists who have previously qualified in other states to administer only infiltration or block injections will be required to provide evidence of approved training in both methods before being certified in North Carolina.