

BOARD REGULATION NUMBER 13—SUPERVISION AND DELEGATION OF DUTIES TO DENTAL AUXILIARY PERSONNEL

Purpose: Pursuant to the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-9-3(1), 73-9-5(2), and 73-9-13, to define the type of supervision required for dental auxiliaries and to further determine procedures which require the professional judgement and skill of a dentist and which, as such, may not be delegated to auxiliary personnel.

Supervision of Dental Auxiliaries

Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-9-3(1) and 73-9-5(2) address areas of supervision of dental auxiliaries, and the following definitions apply to the supervision of dental auxiliaries:

1. **Direct Supervision:** Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-9-3(1) and 73-9-5(2) state that the work of dental auxiliaries shall at all times be under the direct supervision of a licensed Mississippi dentist. This level of supervision requires that a dentist be physically present in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnose the condition to be treated, authorize the procedures to be performed, remain in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the auxiliary, and evaluate the performance of the dental auxiliary.
2. **General Supervision:** Miss. Code Ann. § 73-9-5(2) provides for a limited scope of practice for dental hygienists employed by the Mississippi State Board of Health or public school boards who may be performing oral hygiene instruction and screening or making public demonstrations of dental hygiene for educational purposes, all while under the general supervision of a licensed Mississippi dentist. For this level of supervision and for the limits imposed by Miss. Code Ann. § 73-9-5(2), a dentist is not required to be in the dental office or treatment facility when procedures are being performed, and the dentist may or may not have personally diagnosed the condition to be treated, may or may not have personally authorized the procedures, and may or may not evaluate the performance of the dental hygienist. Furthermore, dental hygienists in the employ of the Mississippi State Board of Health may apply fluoride varnishes as part of any oral hygiene instruction and screening responsibilities while under the general supervision of a licensed Mississippi dentist.

Delegation of Duties to Dental Auxiliaries

The Board has determined that the following procedures may not be delegated to dental auxiliary personnel.

1. Periodontal screening and probing, or subgingival exploration for hard and soft deposits and sulcular irrigations to dental assistants and/or dental hygienists not licensed by the State of Mississippi; may be performed by licensed Mississippi dental hygienists.
2. The use of ultrasonic and/or sonic instruments to dental assistants and/or dental hygienists not licensed by the State of Mississippi; may be performed by licensed Mississippi dental hygienists.
3. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 73-9-3, the removal of calcareous deposits with an instrument by anyone other than a licensed Mississippi dental hygienist.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

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July 16, 2007

Honorable Eric Clark
Mississippi Secretary of State
Heber Ladner Building
401 Mississippi Street
Post Office Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205

HAND MAIL

RE: Notice of Proposed Rule Adoption--Board Regulation 13

Dear Secretary Clark:

In accordance with your agency's policies, enclosed for an initial filing are an original and one copy of the Notice of Proposed Rule Adoption and Board Regulation 13. Also, enclosed is a self-addressed envelope for your use in returning a "filed" copy of the Notice and attached Regulation to this office. An Economic Impact Statement is not attached, as this amendment does not necessitate such. Electronic PDF versions of the Notice and Regulation have been transmitted to your office via e-mail.

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Diane Howell".

Leah Diane Howell
Executive Director

LDH/me

Enclosures