

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS OF NEVADA**

LCB FILE NO. R125-26I

**The following document is the initial draft regulation proposed
by the agency submitted on 06/01/2026**

1. Amend NAC 631.033 - Use of laser radiation in practice: Documentation required with application for renewal of license – A regulation related to the qualifications of a practitioner to use laser radiation in practice; *[new] amends education requirements to requires hands-on clinical training.* [Authority: NRS 631.215(k); (2)(b)].

2. Amend NAC 631.173 - Continuing education: Required hours; types of courses and activities; approval of provider or instructor – A regulation related to professional licensing for the practices of dentistry and dental hygiene and continuing education to maintain licensing; *[new] exempts new dental school or dental program graduates from needing to meet continuing education requirements where they graduated less than 6 months prior to continuing education credits being due; requires location of live instruction continuing education to undergo an infection control inspection prior to providing live-patient demonstrations* [Authority: NRS 631.342(1)].

3. Amend NAC 631.175 - Continuing education: Approved subjects; minimum requirements for clinical subjects; minimum requirements for dentists registered to dispense controlled substances; maximum credit for certain types of courses and activities – A regulation related to professional licensing for the practices of dentistry and dental hygiene and dental hygiene and continuing education to maintain licensing; *[new] exempts new dental school or dental program graduates from needing to meet continuing education requirements where they graduated less than 6 months prior to continuing education credits being due..* [Authority: NRS 631.342(1)].

4. Amend NAC 631.177 - Continuing education: Renewal or reinstatement of license; records; unprofessional conduct; audits – A regulation related to professional licensing for the practices of dentistry and dental hygiene and dental hygiene and continuing education to maintain licensing; *[new] exempts new dental school or dental program graduates from needing to meet continuing education requirements where they graduated less than 6 months prior to continuing education credits being due..* [Authority: NRS 631.342(1); NRS 631.396].

NAC 631.033 Use of laser radiation in practice: Documentation required with application for renewal of license. ([NRS 631.190](#), [631.330](#)) Each licensee who uses or wishes to use laser radiation in his or her practice of dentistry or dental hygiene must include with the application for renewal of his or her license:

1. A statement certifying that each laser used by the licensee in his or her practice of dentistry or dental hygiene has been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for use in dentistry; and

2. Proof that he or she has successfully completed a course in laser proficiency that:

(a) Is at least 6 hours in length;

(b) ***Had an in-person, hands-on, clinical component;*** and

(c) Is based on the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education*, adopted by reference pursuant to [NAC 631.035](#).

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NAC 631.173 Continuing education: Required hours; types of courses and activities; approval of provider or instructor. ([NRS 631.190](#), [631.342](#))

1. Each dentist licensed to practice in this State must annually complete at least 20 hours of instruction in approved courses of continuing education or biennially complete at least 40 hours of instruction in approved courses of continuing education (CE), as applicable, based on the renewal period set forth in [NRS 631.330](#) for the type of license held by the dentist. Hours of instruction may not be transferred or carried over from one licensing period to another.

(a) Initial licensees who graduated from an accredited dental program within six months of Board licensing, who were admitted from January 1 to June 30 of a calendar year, and who must seek renewal starting July 1 of the same calendar year, are exempt from the renewal CE requirement during the first calendar year of their admission.

2. Each dental hygienist licensed to practice in this State must annually complete at least 15 hours of instruction in approved courses of continuing education or biennially complete at least 30 hours of instruction in approved courses of continuing education, as applicable, based on the renewal period set forth in [NRS 631.330](#) for the type of license held by the dental hygienist. Hours of instruction may not be transferred or carried over from one licensing period to another.

3. In addition to the hours of instruction prescribed in subsections 1 and 2, each dentist and dental hygienist must maintain current certification in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation or another medically acceptable means of maintaining basic bodily functions which support life. Any course taken pursuant to this subsection must be taught by a certified instructor.

4. Any provider of or instructor for a course in continuing education relating to the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene which meets the requirements of this section must be approved by the Board, unless the course is for training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or is approved by:

- (a) The American Dental Association or the societies which are a part of it;
- (b) The American Dental Hygienists' Association or the societies which are a part of it;
- (c) The Academy of General Dentistry;
- (d) Any nationally recognized association of dental or medical specialists;
- (e) Any university, college or community college, whether located in or out of Nevada; or
- (f) Any hospital accredited by The Joint Commission.

5. Any provider of or instructor for a course in continuing education relating to the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene where providers perform live patient demonstrations must request and pass an infection control inspection at the mobile location where the dentistry will be provided prior to the course or event, as outlined

in NAC 631.276, unless the continuing education course is being provided in a dental practice or at an educational institution dental clinic that already passed an infection control inspection.

6. To be approved as a provider of a course in continuing education, the instructor of the course must complete a form provided by the Board and submit it to the Board for review by a committee appointed by the Board not later than **60** days before the beginning date of the course. Upon receipt of the form, the committee shall, within **30** days after receiving the form, approve or disapprove the application and inform the applicant of its decision.

7. Study by group may be approved for continuing education if the organizer of the group complies with the requirements of subsection 5 and furnishes the Board with a complete list of all members of the group, a synopsis of the subject to be studied, the time, place and duration of the meetings of the group, and the method by which attendance is recorded and authenticated.

8. Credit may be allowed for attendance at a meeting or a convention of a dental and dental hygiene society.

9. Credit may be allowed for courses completed via home study, on-line study, self-study or journal study which are taught through correspondence, webinar, compact disc or digital video disc.

10. Credit may be allowed for dental and dental hygiene services provided on a voluntary basis to nonprofit agencies and organizations approved by the Board.

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NAC 631.175 Continuing education: Approved subjects; minimum requirements for clinical subjects; minimum requirements for dentists registered to dispense controlled substances; maximum credit for certain types of courses and activities. ([NRS 631.190](#), [631.342](#), [631.344](#))

1. Approved subjects for continuing education in dentistry and dental hygiene are:
 - (a) Clinical subjects, including, without limitation:
 - (1) Dental and medical health;
 - (2) Preventive services;
 - (3) Dental diagnosis and treatment planning; and
 - (4) Dental clinical procedures, including corrective and restorative oral health procedures and basic dental sciences, dental research and new concepts in dentistry; and
 - (b) Nonclinical subjects, including, without limitation:
 - (1) Dental practice organization and management;
 - (2) Patient management skills;
 - (3) Methods of health care delivery; and
 - (4) Teaching methodology.
2. In completing the hours of continuing education required pursuant to [NAC 631.173](#), a dentist must annually complete at least 15 hours in clinical subjects approved pursuant to subsection 1 or biennially complete at least 30 hours in clinical subjects approved pursuant to subsection 1, as applicable, based on the renewal period set forth in [NRS 631.330](#) for the type of license held by the dentist.
3. In completing the hours of continuing education required pursuant to [NAC 631.173](#), a dental hygienist must annually complete at least 12 hours in clinical subjects approved pursuant to subsection 1 or biennially complete at least 24 hours in clinical subjects approved pursuant to subsection 1, as applicable, based on the renewal period set forth in [NRS 631.330](#) for the type of license held by the dental hygienist.
4. In completing the hours of continuing education required pursuant to [NAC 631.173](#), a dentist or dental hygienist must annually complete at least 2 hours in the clinical subject of infection control in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines adopted by reference in [NAC 631.178](#) or biennially complete at least 4 hours in the clinical subject of infection control in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines adopted by reference in [NAC 631.178](#), as applicable, based on the renewal period set forth in [NRS 631.330](#) for the type of license held by the dentist or dental hygienist.
5. In completing the hours of continuing education required pursuant to [NAC 631.173](#), a dentist who is registered to dispense controlled substances pursuant to [NRS 453.231](#) must complete at least 2 hours of training relating specifically to the misuse and abuse of controlled substances, the prescribing of opioids or addiction during each period of licensure.

6. Initial licensees who graduated from an accredited dental program, dental therapy program, dental hygiene program, or an extended function dental assisting

program within six months of Board licensing, who were admitted from January 1 to June 30 of a calendar year, and who must seek renewal starting July 1 of the same calendar year, are exempt from the renewal CLE requirements listed in sections 1 through 5 during the first calendar year of their admission.

7. The Board will credit, as a maximum in any one year of an annual or biennial licensing period, the following number of hours of instruction for the following types of courses or activities:

(a) For approved study by a group, 3 hours.

(b) For attendance at a meeting or convention of a dental or dental hygiene society, 1 hour for each meeting, but not more than 3 hours, exclusive of hours of continuing education offered in conjunction with the meeting.

(c) For courses completed via home study, on-line study, self-study or journal study through correspondence, webinar, compact disc or digital video disc, not more than 50 percent of the number of hours of continuing education required by subsection 1 or 2 of [NAC 631.173](#), as applicable.

(d) For all other courses conducted by an approved instructor, the number of hours completed by the dentist or dental hygienist.

(e) For approved dental or dental hygiene services provided in approved nonprofit settings, 6 hours, except that not more than 3 hours will be allowed for any day of volunteer services provided.

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NAC 631.177 Continuing education: Renewal or reinstatement of license; records; unprofessional conduct; audits. ([NRS 631.190](#), [631.330](#), [631.335](#), [631.342](#))

1. When requesting a renewal or reinstatement of his or her license, each:

(a) Dentist shall submit a signed, written statement in substantially the following language for each year since his or her last renewal:

I,, hereby certify to the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada that I have obtained at least 20 approved hours of instruction in continuing education during the period July 1,, through and including June 30,, I also certify to the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada that I am currently certified in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation or another medically acceptable means of maintaining basic bodily functions which support life.

Dated this (day) of (month) of (year)

.....

.....
Signature of Dentist

(b) Dental hygienist shall submit a signed, written statement in substantially the following language for each year since his or her last renewal:

I,, hereby certify to the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada that I have obtained at least 15 approved hours of instruction in continuing education during the period July 1,, through and including June 30,, I also certify to the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada that I am currently certified in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation or another medically acceptable means of maintaining basic bodily functions which support life.

Dated this (day) of (month) of (year)

.....

.....
Signature of Dental

Hygienist

(c) Dentist or dental hygienist shall submit proof of his or her current certification in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation or other medically acceptable means of maintaining basic bodily functions which support life.

(d) Initial licensees who graduated from an accredited dental program within six months of Board licensing, who were admitted from January 1 to June 30 of a calendar year, and who must seek renewal starting July 1 of the same calendar year,

are exempt from the renewal CLE requirements listed in Section 1 (a), (b), and (c) during the first calendar year of their admission.

2. Legible copies of all receipts, records of attendance, certificates and other evidence of attendance by a dentist or dental hygienist at an approved course in continuing education must be retained by the dentist or dental hygienist and made available to the Board for inspection or copying for 3 years after attendance at the course is submitted to meet the continuing education requirements of the Board. Proof of attendance and completion of the required credit hours of instruction must be complete enough to enable the Board to verify the attendance and completion of the course by the dentist or dental hygienist and must include at least the following information:

- (a) The name and location of the course;
- (b) The date of attendance;
- (c) The name, address and telephone number of its instructor;
- (d) A synopsis of its contents; and

(e) For courses designed for home study, the number assigned to the provider by the Board at the time the course was approved and the name, address and telephone number of the producer or author of the course.

~~—3.— The third or subsequent failure of a dentist and dental hygienist to obtain or file proof of completion of the credit hours of instruction required by this section and [NAC 631.173](#) and [631.175](#) is unprofessional conduct.~~

3. The Board will conduct random audits of dentists or dental hygienists to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section and [NAC 631.173](#) and [631.175](#). Licensees subject to audit will be issued a letter by the Board's Executive Director requesting written proof of completion of all required continuing education requirements for the period of time stated in the letter.

(a) If a licensee fails their audit, their most recent renewal application will be examined to see if they affirmed completing continuing education requirements. If a licensee did affirm completion of continuing education requirements but fails the audit, they will be referred to the Board for possible authorized investigation and disciplinary action, up to and including revocation of license.

(b) If a licensee fails their audit and their most recent renewal application did not affirm that they completed continuing education requirements, the licensee will be provided a 90-day extension to attempt to cure all outstanding continuing education course type or credit hour deficiencies. Successful completion of the remaining continuing education requirements during this extension period will result in no disciplinary referral. Failing to cure all outstanding continuing education course type or credit hour deficiencies during this extension period will result in referral to the Board for possible authorized investigation and disciplinary action, up to and including suspension of license.

(c) If a licensee fails their audit, their license to practice will be temporarily suspended without further Board action until they can demonstrate to the Board that they have cured all outstanding continuing education course type or credit hour deficiencies. Once all deficiencies are cured, the licensee's current license will be automatically reinstated without further action of the Board. No reinstatement application or reinstatement fee are required from a licensee whose license is reinstated under this paragraph.

(d) Failing the audit occurs when:

(i) A licensee receives an audit notification letter, knows they did not meet requirements or cannot show written proof of completing requirements, and notifies the Board that they cannot comply;

(ii) A licensee fails to contact the Board or fails to provide the requested documentation after being provided two notices to cure deficiencies letters, the first sent by regular mail and the second sent by certified mail; or

(iii) A licensee sends documentation attempting compliance, but the audit reveals they did not complete the quantity and type of required continuing education courses.

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