

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(i), 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 and Recognition of Dental Auxiliaries

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

1. **Direct Supervision:** Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-9-3(i) 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.
3. **Recognized Dental Hygienists:** Miss. Code Ann. § 73-9-5(2) provides language pertaining to dental hygienists “recognized” by the Board when making public demonstrations of dental hygiene for educational purposes and that such “recognized” dental hygienists shall be under the general supervision of licensed Mississippi dentists. Licensed Mississippi dental hygienists shall be allowed to provide demonstrations of dental hygiene for educational purposes, solely as a public service, while under the general supervision of licensed Mississippi dentists, such general supervision as heretofore defined. These dentists may, or may not, be the employing dentist for whom the dental hygienist provides dental hygiene services.

Furthermore, such public demonstrations of dental hygiene for educational purposes may consist of proper brushing and flossing techniques and be in the form of educational lectures for schools, groups, and community events, provided the purpose for which is the promotion of oral health prevention and not outside the scope of practice for dental hygienists. To be “recognized” by the Board for the aforementioned, dental hygienists must fulfill all of the following conditions:

- a. The dental hygienist must hold a currently valid and renewed Mississippi dental hygiene license.
- b. The dental hygienist is listed on active status with the Board.
- c. The dental hygienist receives no additional compensation, monetary or otherwise, of any kind whatsoever, including, but not limited to, salary supplements, insurance proceeds, etc.

Licensed dentists providing general supervision to “recognized” dental hygienists also shall receive no additional compensation, monetary or otherwise, of any kind whatsoever, including, but not limited to, insurance proceeds, direct payments from individuals or organizations, etc. In other words, such public demonstrations of dental hygiene by “recognized” dental hygienists while under general supervision shall be performed as a not-for-profit, public service to the community and citizens of the State of Mississippi.

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.
4. The taking of any impression of the human mouth or oral structure that will be used in the restoration, repair, or replacement of any natural or artificial teeth or for the fabrication or repair of any dental appliance. The Board has further determined that impressions for study models and opposing models, and the construction, adjustment, and cementation of temporary crowns (temporary means crowns placed while permanent restoration is being fabricated) do not require the professional judgement

and skill of a dentist and may be delegated to competent dental auxiliary personnel in accordance with § 73-9-3.

5. The placement, cementation, or final torquing of inlays, permanent crowns, fixed bridges, removable bridges, partial dentures, full dentures, or implant abutments.
6. The equilibration or adjustment of occlusion on natural or artificial dentition, restoration, or sealants.
7. The activation or adjustment of orthodontic appliances.
8. Injections of drugs, medication, or anesthetics by those not authorized by Mississippi law and Board Regulation 29 to administer such agents.
9. Performing pulp capping, pulpotomy and other endodontic therapy.
10. Intraoral restorative procedures.
11. Placement of any subgingival medicated cords. However, the placement of periodontal treatment agents may be performed by licensed Mississippi dental hygienists.

Regulation Thirteen adopted by the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners on September 9, 1976; amended December 17, 1976; amended April 27, 1977; amended September 4, 1988; amended September 25, 1992; amended June 1, 1993; amended July 30, 1993; amended March 8, 1996; amended September 18, 1998; amended October 22, 1999; amended November 3, 2000; amended September 13, 2002; amended November 3, 2006; amended June 22, 2007; amended October 19, 2007; amended August 19, 2011; amended April 21, 2015.

