

Government Relations Report – January 2017

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There continues to be much activity relative to RDAs and RDAEFs as the work on the regulatory language continues and the Occupational Analysis is finished, moving changes to the RDA Exam process forward. CDAA appreciates the long-standing work that has been done by our sister organizations CADAT, FADE and EFDA and the collaborative work that continues between us.

Fee Increases

The Dental Board approved the following fee increases for license renewal and exams, which will take effect in the new fiscal year:

RDA Application fee: \$120

RDA Practical Exam: \$100

RDA Written/Law & Ethics: determined by testing agency

RDAEF Exam fees: \$500

RDA/RDAEF license renewal: \$100

Occupational Analysis

The RDAEF Occupational Analysis is complete and the results were discussed at the August DBC/DAC meeting, at which time OPES gave their report. The results can be found on the dental board website under calendar/August meeting/supplemental materials. The link to the report is:
http://www.dbc.ca.gov/about_us/materials/20160818mm.pdf

RDA Exams

The long requested Candidate Guide has been made available with some edits forthcoming (this was created by OPES and changes need to be vetted by them). The Guide, which includes a rubric, is available on the Dental Board website at http://www.dbc.ca.gov/applicants/rda/becomelicensed_rda.shtml.

The Written Exam and Law & Ethics Exam will likely be combined into one exam.

As part of the Occupational Analysis, OPES is looking to meet with stakeholders, perhaps in December or January.

Regulatory Workshops

Workshops have been held this year to work on the language relative to dental assisting and dental assisting education. It has been worked on with the DAC members, staff and stakeholders. It will then be edited by staff and sent to stakeholders as a final draft. It will then move through the regulatory process, taking months. It may be ready for the May DBC/DAC meeting.

Anesthesia Study

Senator Jerry Hill requested in Feb 2016 that the Dental Board for a subcommittee to investigate whether CAs laws and regulations are enough to

provide patient safety during the use of general anesthesia, especially during the treatment of pediatric patients. In July, a child died in the Bay Area following dental treatment. The subcommittee presented a preliminary report (http://www.dbc.ca.gov/formspubs/anesthesia_study.pdf) which was discussed at the August Board meeting.

At the December meeting, the subcommittee concluded that current policies were sufficient, however the Dental Board proposed strict new recommendations for sedation and anesthesia. If passed by CA lawmakers, it would include changes to the permit system (additional education and personnel for patients younger than 13), updating the definitions, and requiring records and equipment updates (use of capnography for moderate sedation).

These recommendations will move to the legislature in January and will require both the legislature and Governor Brown's approval.

RDAEF Proposals

A proposal for the Interim therapeutic Restoration (ITR) proposal is being worked on for inclusion for the RDAEF.

The EFDAAs are also working on a proposal for a course for RDAEFs that would include the administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide.

DAC / DBC Representation

Our representative on the Dental Board is currently Judith Forsythe, however her term expired in January 2017. This is the completion of her second term, so she cannot be reappointed, however she is currently in her grace period.

Jennifer Rodriguez, RDAEF has been appointed to fill the open RDAEF position on the DAC. In dentistry for 28 years, beginning as a chairside assistant in 1988 and earning her RDAEF in 2000, she will represent the EF community on the Dental Assisting Council.