

Report of the Meeting of the Dental Board of California
July 26, 2010
Prepared for the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

The Dental Board of California met July 26, 2010, in Sacramento. The following summarizes actions and issues coming before the Board pertinent to pediatric oral health

Conscious Sedation and Oral Conscious Sedation Review

In October of 2007 the American Dental Association House of Delegates adopted revised “Guidelines for the Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia by Dentists.” The Dental Board of California governs conscious sedation and oral conscious sedation by California dentists through provisions of statute and regulation embodied in the Business and Professions Code. Acting at the direction of President John Bettinger, a two-member subcommittee was appointed to compare the Business and Professions Code to the revised ADA Guidelines and to report back to the Board if statutory and/or regulatory revisions are necessary to conform California law to the ADA guidelines in the interest of improved public protection.

Comment: For children 12 years of age and younger, the 2007 ADA Guidelines defer to the joint American Academy of Pediatrics / American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry “Guidelines for the Monitoring and Management of Pediatric Patients During and After Sedation for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures.” This was brought to the attention of the Board in public comment by CSPD’s Public Policy Advocate, who pointed out that any comparison of California statute and regulation with ADA Guidelines that omitted a similar comparison to the joint AAP/ AAPD Guidelines for patients under 13 years of age would be incomplete. The recommendation that will emerge from the subcommittee at the next meeting of the Board is expected to be one only of whether modification of California statute or regulation is warranted or necessary, and not what those changes might be.

Licensure by Portfolio Pathway

Assembly Bill 1524 (Hayashi), sponsored by the Dental Board of California, would repeal the licensure examination now administered by the Board and replace it with a portfolio examination process of an applicant’s competence to practice dentistry determined while the applicant is enrolled in a California dental school program. The bill passed out of the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee June 21 and awaits Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, probably in early August. The bill was amended June 29 in the Senate to require that the portfolio examination process cannot commence until the Board adopts formal regulations for implementation.

*Comment: It is increasingly likely the bill will be approved by the Senate, concurred in amendments by the Assembly, and sent to the Governor’s Desk, where it will be signed into law. Draft regulations were developed by the Board and submitted to the author’s office in April. Those draft regulations would require that the dental student (applicant) provide to the Board a “portfolio” of cases, which would include 60 direct (amalgam or composite resin) restorations on primary or permanent teeth. The applicant would further be required to submit with the portfolio, documentation of successful completion of specified “case competencies”, which would include one each of a direct CI II, CI III/IV and CI V restoration on a permanent tooth. If these regulations as proposed were to be adopted by the Board, a licensure candidate could meet licensure requirements without demonstrating either experience or competence in the treatment of the primary dentition or the minor dental patient. **It would be my suggestion that should passage of the portfolio pathway to licensure become law, we engage CDA in a joint effort to place into regulation that no less than a certain percentage (say 20%) of the portfolio of direct restorations be on primary teeth or on patients 13 years of age or younger.***

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