



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Dental Quality Assurance Commission COVID-19 Response Continuing Education, Basic Life Support, and Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination April 17, 2020

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (dental commission) recently discussed the following:

- Online continuing education (CE);
- Basic life support (BLS) certification; and
- Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE).

[WAC 246-817-440](#) provides requirements for dentist continuing education. The rule was changed in 2019 to require 63 hours every three years. Most dentists will report CE with their annual license renewal in 2022. Subsection (4)(a) allows for live webinar courses for full CE credit. Subsection (4)(b)(i) indicates self-study can be continuing education provided online or through the mail provided by a continuing education provider. Thirty minutes will count for every one hour completed for this activity.

The dental commission discussed online CE and determined that no change or exception is necessary at this time for the following reasons:

- CE is not due until 2022;
- The Secretary of Health has [extended health profession license expiration](#) dates for licenses up for renewal between April 1 and September 30, 2020;
- Sedation permit CE hours are different from dentist license CE hours. Online CE for sedation permits are calculate as full credit;
- There are more live webinars available during this time;
- A practitioner may request a CE extension if necessary under WAC 246-12-210; and
- The dental commission will revisit the topic prior to September 30, 2020.

[WAC 246-817-720](#) provides requirements for basic life support certification for dental practitioners. The dental commission discussed that dental practitioners health care provider BLS certifications may expire during this time when no renewal courses are being offered. The dental commission will honor the American Heart Association and other organizations extensions of certifications through September 30, 2020. The dental commission will revisit the topic prior to September 30, 2020.

The dental commission determined to include the [Dental Licensure Obstructive Structured Clinical Examination](#) (DLOSCE) as an acceptable examination to [WAC 246-817-120](#). An emergency rule is currently being processed to allow Washington State dentist applicants to take the DLOSCE as a method of licensure if passed. Since an emergency rule is only valid for 120 days, the dental commission also agreed to pursue permanent rule-making to add the DLOSCE. The permanent rule-making will be in process simultaneously while the emergency rule is put into place. Once the emergency rule is filed, a notice will be sent to the dental interested parties list.