

## **Basic Life Support Certification for Dental Staff**

Dental staff who provide direct patient care are required to hold a basic life support (BLS) certification. See the information below and [WAC 246-817-720](#) that provides the BLS requirements for health care providers.

### **Who is required to hold a current BLS certification?**

Dental staff who provide direct patient care. This could include licensed dentists, licensed dental hygienist, licensed expanded functions dental auxiliaries, certified dental anesthesia assistants, and registered dental assistants.

### **Where can a BLS certification be obtained?**

The health care provider BLS certification can be obtained from an individual, organization, or training center. The instructor must hold a current and valid BLS instructor certification and they must teach the current International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation or ILCOR standard. Example organizations includes, but are not limited to, American Heart Association or American Red Cross.

### **Can my BLS renewal be completed online?**

Not in its entirety. The didactic instruction with a written assessment aspect of the health care provider BLS instruction can be online or in-person. However, the remaining aspects of the instruction need to be in-person. The in-person aspects include skills assessment on high quality chest compressions, rescue breathing using the bag valve mask, and correct use of AED or defibrillator for adults, children, and infants. Their instruction must include feedback to students and a valid health care provider BLS certification card upon completion.

### **Can I count BLS as part of my continuing education?**

Yes. One hour of continuing education for each BLS certification course will be granted. A licensed dentist may not count more than three hours every three years in this category. See [WAC 246-817-440](#) for more information.