



CENTRAL ISSUES

News from the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) central agency and regulated professions

Continuing Education

2008-09

Do current requirements ensure competency?

The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) and the Board of Denture Technology are currently reviewing whether or not current continuing education requirements are meeting the purpose stated in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 331-415-0000(1):

“To ensure continuing efforts on the part of Oregon licensed denturists to remain current with new developments in the denture technology and health care field and to encourage diversified training and qualifications in the profession....”

Board of Denture Technology

At issue: whether or not increasing current continuing education hours from 30 hours every three years to 30 hours every two years is necessary to stay current with developments in technology and practice standards and continue to provide competent quality of care.



We are also reviewing the following components of the continuing education program:

- ☞ Provider qualifications and access, including through distance learning on the World Wide Web
- ☞ Designated hours for specific subject areas and limits to self-study or non-clinical study
- ☞ Revising terminology from continuing education to “continued competency”

Questions to Consider:

Competence, Comparisons and Costs

A key question when determining if an increase in continuing education requirements is necessary is whether or not quality of care and consumer protection are better served by increasing hours. **(continued on reverse)** ☞

ISSUE BRIEFING: Denture Technology

At the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA), we think better informed licensees, consumers and other agency stakeholders (those who have a stake or interest in what and how we regulate) are better able to participate in the regulatory process.

What are the key regulatory issues for the denture technology profession in Oregon?

☞ **Continuing Education:** *Should continuing education requirements increase to keep pace with advances in technology and professional practice?*

☞ **Licensing Fees:** *OHLA has reduced fees and continues to find efficiencies to keep fees as low as possible.*

☞ **Two-Year Licensing:** *Licensees renewing after October 1, 2008 will renew for a new two-year licensing period. Visit our Web site at www.oregon.gov/OHLA/DT for more information.*

How to Reach Us

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How to Stay Informed

Visit our Web site for updates on legislative action, administrative rule changes, and other news affecting the health and related professions licensed and regulated by OHLA.

www.oregon.gov/OHLA

If you can't find the information you're looking for on our Web site, e-mail us or call us. We'll try to answer your question as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

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How to Request Agency Outreach

If you would like OHLA to participate in an event related to any of our regulated professions, please contact us at your convenience.

Continuing Education *(continued)*

Do denturists need more continuing education to stay current with continued advancements in dental materials, techniques and technology? Or is the current level adequate?

Another question is how Oregon compares to other states, and how denture technology compares to other professions. Washington currently requires 30 hours every two years. Oregon dental hygienists are required to obtain 12 hours every year.

Yet one more question to consider is the cost to licensees resulting from increased requirements. Denturists pay direct costs to attend conferences, meetings and classes and "indirect" costs that may include travel, lodging and meals.

Finding a Balance:

Consumer Protection and Regulatory Streamlining

As always, the goal is to provide "streamlined" licensing and regulatory services that are faster, easier and cheaper for licensees while protecting consumers.

We have accomplished that through a number of initiatives, most recently by reducing licensing fees from \$695 annually to \$700 every two years.

As always, we want to hear what licensees believe would be most beneficial to their continuing competency as practitioners, to their bottom line as business people, and to how we can collaborate to reach those goals.

For More Information: www.oregon.gov/OHLA/DT

Review a draft of the Board of Denture Technology's Rules & Legislation Committee report from July 28, 2008, at www.oregon.gov/OHLA/DT. The Board of Denture Technology will consider the committee's recommendations at its September 29, 2008 meeting.

New Fees, Licensing Period

Effective October 1, 2008 for OHLA Professions

Find out more about new licensing fees and the new two-year licensing period at www.oregon.gov/OHLA/DT. Fees for denture technology are now \$700 for two years effective October 1, 2008, replacing the \$695 annual licensing fee for nearly a 50-percent reduction.

Effective October 1, application for licensure is \$350, the written examination fee is \$350 and the practical examination fee is \$650. New late fees are also being implemented.