

Texas State Board of Dental Examiners
LASER RULE UPDATE

On Friday, May 29, 2015 the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners voted for final adoption of revised Rule 115.2 which allows dental hygienists to use lasers in the practice of dental hygiene. The revised Rule became law on June 23, 2015.

Under the revised Rule, hygienists are allowed to use lasers for non-diagnostic purposes under **direct supervision** of a dentist and after taking **12 hours of continuing education** in laser utilization specific to the procedures to be performed by the hygienist. Three of the 12 hours must include clinical simulation laser training similar to the procedures that the hygienist will perform. The course must be given by an educational course provider recognized by the State Board. And, hygienists must maintain documentation of satisfactory completion of the required continuing education.

The Rule also requires that the supervising dentist must meet at least the continuing education requirements required of the dental hygienist.

To clarify, if hygienists have already taken courses in laser utilization that fulfill the course requirements of the revised Rule they do **not** have to take another course. Likewise, if they have taken less than the required 12 hours, they only have to take more continuing education hours to make the total of 12.

The educational course providers recognized by the State Board are the same as listed for all CE courses in Rule 104.2 "Providers". These include ADA CERP, ADA and its constituents and components, ADHA and its constituents and components, AGD, CODA-accredited dental schools and dental hygiene programs, WREB, ADEA, Texas Dental Hygiene Educators' Association, AADH and others.