

#2720

EMBARGOED MATERIAL



Montgomery County
Community College

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

NOV -41 AM 10:06

RECEIVED

November 3, 2009

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairperson
Independent Regulatory Review Board
333 Market Street 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Letter of Support for the Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice Final-Form Regulation (IRRC #2720)

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

I am writing in support of the current Regulation – IRRC #2720, in particular, the administration of local anesthesia by dental hygienists. I am the Director of the Dental Hygiene Program at Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA and a long-time clinician and educator. I also completed both didactic and clinical training in local anesthesia in 1979 at the University of Pennsylvania: School of Dental Medicine and legally performed this service for patients until local anesthesia administration was prohibited due to a moratorium by the PA State Board of Dentistry in the early 1980's.

I believe the administration of local anesthesia should be a permitted function for dental hygienists within the Commonwealth of PA. Dental hygiene educational programs have long been required by the ADA's Commission on Dental Accreditation to meet the state's scope of practice through both didactic and clinical courses and competencies. As outlined below, our dental hygiene curriculum currently includes many hours of coursework related to local anesthesia in the areas of anatomy, pharmacology, medical emergencies, microbiology, medical assessment and CPR training. The additional 30 hours of required training would be consistent with requirements in the 41 states currently allowing dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia. Further, this training would provide in-depth education and practical experience in local anesthesia in both the dental hygiene curriculum and for licensed dental hygienists opting to administer local anesthesia in dental hygiene practice.

- **Pharmacology – 30 hours** – students learn terminology, pharmacological principles of drug action and the therapeutic and toxicologic effects of clinically important drugs in medical and dental practice, including local anesthetics.
- **Anatomy and Physiology – 120 hours** – study of the normal and pathological structure and function of the body. Emphasis is on each of the body systems including the anatomy of the head and neck. Laboratory experiences supplement and reinforce the lecture material. Dissection is required.
- **Microbiology – 60 hours** – study of the microorganisms and their relationship to infectious disease in humans. The biology of microorganisms; infections and pathogenesis; resistance and immunity. Laboratory instruction is included in the course.
- **Medical Assessment – 21 hours** – includes the acquisition of medical information to determine the client's health status, contraindications to care, necessity for medical consultation and maintenance of legal documentation.

340 DeKalb Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422
215-641-6300

101 College Drive
Pottstown, PA 19464
610-718-1800

- **Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office– 15 hours** – addresses the prevention, prompt recognition and effective treatment of patients presenting for dental treatment in the dental setting, including reactions to local anesthetics
- **Pain Control – 12 hours** – includes local anesthesia resulting in certification
- **CPR – 6-8 hours** on the basics of life support with resultant certification

The current dental hygiene curriculum already provides a sound foundation for training dental hygiene students in the use of local anesthesia. With the addition of didactic education and clinical-based training in local anesthesia, our future graduates, and those already in practice who elect to obtain the required training, will be prepared to deliver this service in a safe and effective manner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny K. Sheaffer

Jenny K. Sheaffer, RDH, MS

Hello,
Please forward to Mr. Coccodrilli.
Thank you,
Stephanie

From: SC225MFD@mc3.edu [mailto:SC225MFD@mc3.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 9:37 AM
To: Stephanie Bennett
Subject: Attached Image

Montgomery County Community College is proud to be
the #1 ranked technology-savvy community college in the nation,
as determined by the Center for Digital Education and Converge magazine.

2720

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

From: Miller, Sarah E.
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 2:38 PM
To: Wilmarth, Fiona E.; Gelnett, Wanda B.; Cooper, Kathy
Subject: FW: IRRC Website - New Message

From: Independent Regulatory Review Commission [mailto:No-Reply@irrc.state.pa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 2:22 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message

RECEIVED
2009 NOV -4 PM 2:40
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Chapman

Company: DDS

Email: koditoo@verizon.net

Subject: Local Anesthesia Regulations

Message:

I have been practicing for 42 years, including 18 years in the Department of Operative Dentistry at Temple School of Dentistry, where as a faculty member I taught (when it was legal) Local Anesthesia to Dental Hygiene students at the Dental Hygiene school, the Dental Hygiene Department at Montgomery County Community College and also (as an Adjunct Professor) at Thomas Jefferson U Department of Dental Hygiene. I also conducted several courses to groups of Hygienists. I found these students accross the board to effectively administer local anesthesia. I can recall no occasion when a hemotoma was incurred, and no incidences of paraesthesia with the students with whom I worked. The techniques we used then were perhaps primitive by today's standards but were effective. While I cannot address the amount of hours currently devoted to presenting this material to dental students, I can say that no more than thirty hours of instruction (practical and didactic combined) were available to the dental hygiene students. I state again that the incidence of complications was essentially zero. The most common problem I encountered was syncopy which seemed to occur in equal proportions with both dental and Hygiene students. It seems that many dentists would welcome hygienists with this skill into their practices. I can be reached at 717-273-0411 on Tuesday and Thursday, and 215-641-6483 on Wednesday anf Friday. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my experiences with you. Michael K. Chapman DDS 102 Maple Avenue Mt Gretna, PA 17064 717-964-3352 (home)

2720

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

From: Moore, Paul A [pam7@pitt.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 3:45 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Public comment for IRRC #2720 (Dental Hygiene Expanded Function)

RECEIVED
2009 NOV -5 AM 7:26
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW BOARD

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairperson
Independent Regulatory Review Board
333 Market Street 1 # Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Sir,

I am writing to give my complete support for the legislation, as current written, that will allow broadening the scope of practice for dental hygienist to administer local anesthesia. As Chairman of the Department of Dental Anesthesiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, I have had considerable experience in training Dental Hygiene and Dental Students in this area to clinical competence. I have no concerns for this change in practice regarding patient safety when administering local anesthesia under supervision.

I have followed the literature of adverse reactions following local anesthesia administration in dentistry and find that there is no reason to not allow this change in the PA State regulations. Experience with other states has demonstrated it's safety.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Paul A. Moore DMD, PhD, MPH
Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesiology
University of Pittsburgh
School of Dental Medicine
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
pam7@pitt.edu
412-648-8476