Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 147.10, 147.11, 153.15A, 153.39 and 272C.2, the Dental Board hereby amends Chapter 14, “Renewal and Reinstatement,” and Chapter 20, “Dental Assistants,” and rescinds Chapter 25, “Continuing Education,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new Chapter 25 with the same title.

These amendments rescind Chapter 25 and replace it with a new Chapter 25 pertaining to updated continuing education requirements and standards. The purpose of these amendments is to clarify continuing education requirements for renewal of licenses and registrations and to simplify requirements for continuing education course and sponsor review.

These amendments place all continuing education requirements for the purposes of renewal in a single chapter. Currently, continuing education requirements for dental assistants are found in Chapter 20. The continuing education requirements for dental assistants are being stricken from Chapter 20 and moved to Chapter 25.

These amendments update and add definitions to the chapter to clarify intent and to allow the approval of programs and activities when content clearly meets established requirements for approval.

The amendments clarify when proof of continuing education shall be submitted, as the result of a registrant’s or licensee’s being selected for an audit.

These amendments update and clarify the list of acceptable and unacceptable topics for continuing education credit and add a provision to allow credit for those who complete the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) examination during the current reporting period.

These amendments establish a new rule 650—25.9(153), “Designation of continuing education hours,” which sets forth the number of continuing education hours that will be awarded for certain specific activities.

These amendments establish new requirements for continuing education in the areas of infection control and jurisprudence for all Iowa licensees and registrants.

These amendments put a limit on the length of time for which continuing education courses would be eligible for credit following review and approval by the Board. This provision will ensure that courses for which credit is awarded are current and include relevant concepts and information.

These amendments update the notification requirement following the Board’s decision regarding continuing education requests. Current requirements require notification by ordinary mail. The new rule requires written notification by email.

The purposes of the amendments to Chapter 14 are to clarify the provisions for placing a license or registration on inactive status and to update provisions regarding the reactivation or reinstatement of an inactive or lapsed license or registration.

These amendments move the rules relating to reinstatement of an inactive practitioner from Chapter 25 to Chapter 14 to allow renewal and reinstatement requirements to be addressed in a single chapter.

The amendments to Chapter 14 add a provision that a practitioner who has not actively practiced clinically for a period of five years or more may be required to complete an examination or assessment to prove competency.

The amendments to Chapter 14 lower from 50 hours to 30 hours the cap on the number of continuing education hours that a dental assistant is required to submit for reinstatement or reactivation.

The amendments eliminate the need for submission of a separate signed form in cases where a licensee or registrant renews on inactive status. The amendments to Chapter 20 add definitions to refine the roles of dental assistants in the dental office. The amendments also clarify the procedures that may be completed under general supervision and the requirements of personal supervision.

The amendments to Chapter 20 clarify the timeline for dental assistant trainee status and application for dental assistant registration. These amendments add a rule to Chapter 20 for applicant responsibilities.
regarding the submission of applications, the time period for applications, and the information being submitted, using language currently in Chapter 11, “Licensure to Practice Dentistry or Dental Hygiene.”

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on July 5, 2017, as **ARC 3157C**. A public hearing was held on July 27, 2017, at 2 p.m. at the office of the Iowa Dental Board. There were not any attendees at the public hearing, nor were any written comments received. Since publication of the Notice, two changes were made. In subrules 25.4(4) and 25.4(5), the beginning date was changed from July 1, 2018, to September 1, 2018. In subrule 25.4(5), the jurisprudence was specified as “Iowa jurisprudence.”

The Board reviewed and discussed these amendments during its October 13, 2017, open session board meeting and, after allowing additional comments from the public, adopted the amendments.

These amendments are subject to waiver or variance pursuant to 650—Chapter 7. After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found. These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 153 and 272C. These amendments will become effective January 10, 2018.

The following amendments are adopted.

**ITEM 1.** Amend rule 650—14.1(147,153,272C), introductory paragraph, as follows:

**650—14.1(147,153,272C) Renewal of license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.** A license to practice dentistry or a license to practice dental hygiene must be renewed prior to the expiration date of the license. Dental hygiene licenses expire on August 31 of every odd-numbered year. Dental licenses expire August 31 of every even-numbered year. A licensee who is not engaged in practice in the state of Iowa may place the license on inactive status by submitting a renewal form and paying the required renewal fee. No continuing education hours are required to renew a license on inactive status until application for reactivation is made. A request to place a license on inactive status shall also contain a statement that the applicant will not engage in the practice of the applicant’s profession in Iowa without first complying with all rules governing reactivation of inactive licenses.

**ITEM 2.** Amend subrule 14.1(1) as follows:

**14.1(1) Application renewal procedures.**

a. **Renewal notice.** The board office will send a renewal notice by regular mail or e-mail to each licensee at the licensee’s last-known mailing or e-mail address.

b. **Licensee and permit holder obligation.** The licensee or permit holder is responsible for renewing the license or permit prior to its expiration. Failure of the licensee or permit holder to receive the notice does not relieve the licensee or permit holder of the responsibility for renewing that license or permit in order to continue practicing in the state of Iowa.

c. **Renewal application form.** Application for renewal must be made on forms provided by the board office. Licensees and permit holders may renew their licenses and permits online or via paper application.

d. **Complete and timely filed application.** No renewal application shall be considered timely and sufficient until received by the board office and accompanied by all material required for renewal and all applicable renewal and late fees. Incomplete applications will be not accepted. For purposes of establishing timely filing, the postmark on a paper submittal will be used, and for renewals submitted online, the electronic timestamp will be deemed the date of filing.

**ITEM 3.** Amend rule 650—14.2(153), introductory paragraph, as follows:

**650—14.2(153) Renewal of registration as a dental assistant.** A certificate of registration as a registered dental assistant must be renewed biennially. Registration certificates shall expire on August 31 of every odd-numbered year. A registrant who is not engaged in practice in the state of Iowa may place the registration on inactive status by submitting a renewal form and paying the required renewal fee. No continuing education hours are required to renew a registration on inactive status until application for reactivation is made. A request to place a registration on inactive status shall also
contain a statement that the applicant will not engage in the practice of the applicant’s profession in Iowa without first complying with all rules governing reactivation of inactive registrations.

**ITEM 4.** Amend paragraph 14.2(1)“a” as follows:

a. *Renewal notice.* The board office will send a renewal notice by regular mail or e-mail to each registrant at the registrant’s last-known mailing address or e-mail address. The board will notify each registrant by mail or e-mail of the expiration of the registration certificate.

**ITEM 5.** Amend subrule 14.2(3) as follows:

14.2(3) *Continuing education requirements.* Completion of continuing education as specified in rule 650—20.11(153) and 650—Chapter 25 is required for renewal of an active registration. Failure to meet the requirements of renewal in the time specified by rule will automatically result in a lapsed registration.

**ITEM 6.** Amend rule 650—14.6(147,153,272C) as follows:

650—14.6(147,153,272C) *Reinstatement of a lapsed license or registration.*

14.6(1) A licensee or a registrant who allows a license or registration to lapse by failing to renew may have the license or registration reinstated at the discretion of the board by submitting the following:

a. A completed application for reinstatement of a lapsed license or registration to practice dentistry, or dental hygiene or dental assisting, on forms provided by the board, in addition to the required fee or application for reinstatement of a lapsed registration on the form provided by the board.

b. Dates and places of practice.

c. A list of other states in which licensed or registered and the identifying number of each license or registration.

d. Reasons for seeking reinstatement and why the license or registration was not maintained.

e. Payment of all renewal fees past due, as specified in 650—Chapter 15, plus the reinstatement fee as specified in 650—Chapter 15.

f. Evidence of completion of a total of 15 hours of continuing education for each lapsed year or part thereof in accordance with 650—Chapter 25, up to a maximum of 75 hours. Dental assistants shall be required to submit evidence of completion of a total of 10 hours of continuing education for each lapsed year or part thereof in accordance with 650—20.12(153) 650—Chapter 25, up to a maximum of 30 hours, or evidence of the full-time or part-time practice of the profession in another state of the United States or the District of Columbia, for a minimum of two years within the previous five-year period, and a statement verifying that continuing education requirements in that state of practice have been met.

g. If licensed or registered in another state, the licensee or registrant shall provide certification by the state board of dentistry or equivalent authority of such state that the licensee or registrant has not been the subject of final or pending disciplinary action.

h. A statement disclosing and explaining any disciplinary actions, investigations, claims, complaints, judgments, settlements, or criminal charges.

i. Evidence that the applicant possesses a current certificate in a nationally recognized course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The course must include a clinical component.

j. For reinstatement of a lapsed license, a completed fingerprint packet to facilitate a criminal history background check by the Iowa division of criminal investigation (DCI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including the fee for the evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks by the DCI and FBI, as specified in 650—Chapter 15.

14.6(2) The board may require a licensee or registrant who is applying for reinstatement, and has not actively practiced clinically within the previous five years, to successfully complete an examination designated by the board prior to reinstatement if necessary to ensure the licensee or registrant is able to practice the licensee’s or registrant’s respective profession with reasonable skill and safety a regional clinical examination, or other board-approved examination or assessment, for the purpose of ensuring that the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge and skill to practice safely.

14.6(3) When the board finds that a practitioner applying for reinstatement is or has been subject to disciplinary action taken against a license or registration held by the applicant in another state of the
United States, District of Columbia, or territory, and the violations which resulted in such actions would also be grounds for discipline in Iowa in accordance with rule 650—30.4(153), the board may deny reinstatement of a license or registration to practice dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting in Iowa or may impose any applicable disciplinary sanctions as specified in rule 650—30.2(153) as a condition of reinstatement.

14.6(4) The dental hygiene committee may, in its discretion, review any applications for reinstatement of a lapsed dental hygiene license and make recommendations to the board. The board’s review of the dental hygiene committee recommendation is subject to 650—Chapter 1. This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.10, 147.11, and 272C.2.

ITEM 7. Adopt the following new rule 650—14.8(153):

650—14.8(153) Reactivation of an inactive license or registration.

14.8(1) Inactive practitioners shall, prior to engaging in the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting in the state of Iowa, satisfy all of the following requirements for reactivation:
   a. Submit application for reactivation to the board upon forms provided by the board, in addition to the required fee.
   b. Provide evidence of one of the following:
      (1) The full-time or part-time practice of the profession in another state of the United States or the District of Columbia for a minimum of two years within the previous five-year period; or
      (2) Completion of a total number of hours of approved continuing education computed by multiplying 15 by the number of years the license has been on inactive status for a dentist or dental hygienist, up to a maximum of 75 hours for a dentist or dental hygienist, or by multiplying 10 by the number of years the registration has been on inactive status for a dental assistant, up to a maximum of 30 hours for a dental assistant.
   c. Submit evidence that the applicant possesses a current certificate in a nationally recognized course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The course must include a clinical component.

14.8(2) The board may require a licensee or registrant who is applying for reactivation and has not actively practiced clinically in the previous five years to successfully complete a regional clinical examination, or other board-approved examination or assessment, to ensure the licensee or registrant is able to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

14.8(3) Applications must be filed with the board along with the following:
   a. Certification by the state board of dentistry or equivalent authority of the state in which the applicant has been licensed or has engaged in the practice of the applicant’s profession that the applicant has not been the subject of final or pending disciplinary action.
   b. Statement as to any claims, complaints, judgments or settlements made with respect to the applicant arising out of the alleged negligence or malpractice in rendering professional services as a dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant.

ITEM 8. Amend rule 650—20.2(153) as follows:

650—20.2(153) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

“Dental assistant” means any person who, under the supervision of a dentist, performs any extraoral services including infection control or the use of hazardous materials or performs any intraoral services on patients. The term “dental assistant” does not include persons otherwise actively licensed in Iowa to practice dental hygiene or nursing who are engaged in the practice of said profession.

“Dental assistant trainee” means any person who is engaging in on-the-job training to meet the requirements for registration and who is learning the necessary skills under the personal supervision of a licensed dentist. Trainees may also engage in on-the-job training in dental radiography pursuant to 650—22.3(136C,153).

“Direct supervision” means that the dentist is present in the treatment facility, but it is not required that the dentist be physically present in the treatment room while the registered dental assistant is performing acts assigned by the dentist.
“General supervision” means that a dentist has examined the patient and has delegated the services to be provided by a registered dental assistant, which are limited to all extraoral duties, dental radiography, intraoral suctioning, and use of a curing light, intraoral digital imaging and intraoral camera. The dentist need not be present in the facility while these services are being provided.

“Personal supervision” for intraoral procedures means the dentist is physically present in the treatment room to oversee and direct all intraoral or chairside services of the dental assistant and trainee. “Personal supervision” for extraoral procedures means a licensee or registrant is physically present in the treatment room to oversee and direct all extraoral services of the dental assistant trainee.

“Public health supervision” means all of the following:

1. The dentist authorizes and delegates the services provided by a registered dental assistant to a patient in a public health setting, with the exception that services may be rendered without the patient’s first being examined by a licensed dentist;
2. The dentist is not required to provide future dental treatment to patients served under public health supervision;
3. The dentist and the registered dental assistant have entered into a written supervision agreement that details the responsibilities of each licensee/registrant, as specified in subrule 20.16(2); and
4. The registered dental assistant has an active Iowa registration and a minimum of one year of clinical practice experience.

“Registered dental assistant” means any person who has met the requirements for registration and has been issued a certificate of registration.

“Trainee status expiration date” means the date established by the board office which is 12 months from a person’s first date of employment as a dental assistant. The trainee status expiration date is the date by which a trainee must successfully complete requirements and become registered as a dental assistant, pursuant to Iowa Code section 153.29 12 months from the date of issuance.


ITEM 10. Adopt the following new rule 650—20.3(153):

650—20.3(153) Applicant responsibilities. An applicant for dental assistant trainee status or dental assistant registration bears full responsibility for each of the following:

20.3(1) Providing accurate, up-to-date, and truthful information on the application including, but not limited to, prior professional experiences, education, training, examination scores, and disciplinary history.

20.3(2) Submitting complete application materials. An application for trainee status will be considered active for 90 days from the date the application is received. An application for dental assistant registration, reactivation, or reinstatement will be considered valid for 180 days from the date the application is received. If the applicant does not submit all materials within this time period, or if the applicant does not meet the requirements for trainee status, dental assistant registration, or reinstatement, the application shall be considered incomplete and the applicant must submit a new application and application fee.

ITEM 11. Amend renumbered subparagraph 20.5(4)“e”(3) as follows:

(3) Notwithstanding 650—paragraph 10.3(1)”e” and paragraph 20.3(2)“e,” 20.4(2)“e,” for the purposes of this chapter, the removal of adhesives by hand instrumentation does not constitute the removal of “hard natural or synthetic material.”

ITEM 12. Rescind existing rule 650—20.6(153).

ITEM 13. Amend renumbered rule 650—20.6(153) as follows:

650—20.6(153) Categories of dental assistants: dental assistant trainee, registered dental assistant. There are two categories of dental assistants. Both the supervising dentist and the registered dental assistant or dental assistant trainee are responsible for maintaining documentation of training.
Such documentation must be maintained in the office of practice and shall be provided to the board upon request.

**20.6(1) Registered dental assistant.** Registered dental assistants are individuals who have met the requirements for registration and have been issued a certificate of registration. A registered dental assistant may, under general supervision, perform dental radiography, intraoral suctioning, use of a curing light and intraoral camera, and all extraoral duties that are assigned by the dentist and are consistent with these rules. During intraoral procedures, the registered dental assistant may, under direct supervision, assist the dentist in performing duties assigned by the dentist that are consistent with these rules. The registered dental assistant may take radiographs if qualified pursuant to 650—Chapter 22.

**20.6(2) Dental assistant trainee.** Dental assistant trainees are all individuals who are engaging in on-the-job training to meet the requirements for registration and who are learning the necessary skills under the personal supervision of a licensed dentist. Trainees may also engage in on-the-job training in dental radiography pursuant to 650—22.3(136C,153).

a. **General requirements.** The dental assistant trainee shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Prior to the trainee status expiration date, the dental assistant trainee shall successfully complete a course of study and examination in the areas of infection control, hazardous materials, and jurisprudence. The course of study shall be prior approved by the board and sponsored by a board-approved postsecondary school.

(2) Prior to the trainee status expiration date, the trainee must apply to the board office to be reclassified as a registered dental assistant.

(3) If a trainee fails to become registered by the trainee status expiration date, the trainee must stop work as a dental assistant trainee. If the trainee has not yet met the requirements for registration, the trainee may reapply for trainee status but may not work until a new dental assistant trainee status certificate has been issued by the board.

b. **New trainee application required if trainee not registered prior to trainee status expiration date.**

Trainee restart. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 153.29, a person employed as a dental assistant has a 12-month period following the person’s first date of employment to become registered. If not registered by the trainee status expiration date, the trainee must stop work as a dental assistant and reapply for trainee status.

(1) Reapplying for trainee status. A trainee may “start over” as a dental assistant trainee provided the trainee submits an application in compliance with subrule 20.7(1).

(2) Examination scores valid for three years. A “repeat” trainee is not required to retake an examination (jurisprudence, infection control/hazardous materials, radiography) if the trainee has successfully passed the examination within three years of the date of application. If a trainee has failed two or more examinations, the trainee must satisfy the remedial education requirements in subrule 20.11(1). The trainee status application will not be approved until the trainee successfully completes any required remedial education.

(3) New trainee status expiration date issued. If the repeat trainee application is approved, the board office will establish a new trainee status expiration date by which registration must be completed.

(4) Maximum of two “start over” periods allowed. In addition to the initial 12-month trainee status period, a dental assistant is permitted up to two start over periods as a trainee. If a trainee seeks an additional start over period beyond two, the trainee shall submit a petition for rule waiver under 650—Chapter 7.

c. **Trainees enrolled in cooperative education or work study programs.** The requirements stated in this subrule apply to all dental assistant trainees, including a person enrolled in a cooperative education or work-study program through an Iowa high school. In addition, a trainee under 18 years of age shall not participate in dental radiography.

**20.6(2) Registered dental assistant.** A registered dental assistant may perform under general supervision dental radiography, intraoral suctioning, use of a curing light and intraoral camera, and all extraoral duties that are assigned by the dentist and are consistent with these rules. During intraoral procedures, the registered dental assistant may, under direct supervision, assist the dentist in performing
duties assigned by the dentist that are consistent with these rules. The registered dental assistant may take radiographs if qualified pursuant to 650—Chapter 22.

ITEM 14. Amend subrule 20.7(1) as follows:

20.7(1) Dental assistant trainee.
   a. On or after May 1, 2013, a dentist supervising a person performing dental assistant duties must ensure that the person has been issued a trainee status certificate from the board office prior to the person’s first date of employment as a dental assistant. A dentist who has been granted a temporary permit to provide volunteer services for a qualifying event of limited duration pursuant to 650—subrule 13.3(3), or an Iowa-licensed dentist who is volunteering at such qualifying event, is exempt from this requirement for a dental assistant who is working under the dentist’s supervision at the qualifying event.
   b. Applications for registration as a dental assistant trainee must be filed on official board forms and include the following:
      (1) The fee as specified in 650—Chapter 15.
      (2) Evidence of high school graduation or equivalent.
      (3) Evidence the applicant is 17 years of age or older.
      (4) Any additional information required by the board relating to the character and experience of the applicant as may be necessary to evaluate the applicant’s qualifications.
      (5) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of (2) and (3) above, evidence that the applicant is enrolled in a cooperative education or work-study program through an Iowa high school.
   c. Prior to the trainee status expiration date, the dental assistant trainee is required to successfully complete a board-approved course of study and examination in the areas of infection control, hazardous materials, and jurisprudence. The course of study may be taken at a board-approved postsecondary school or on the job using curriculum approved by the board for such purpose. Evidence of meeting this requirement prior to the trainee status expiration date shall be submitted by the employer dentist.
   d. Prior to the trainee status expiration date, the dental assistant trainee’s supervising dentist must ensure that the trainee has received a certificate of registration or has been issued start-over trainee status in accordance with rule 650—20.6(153) before performing any further dental assisting duties.

ITEM 15. Amend rule 650—20.12(153) as follows:

650—20.12(153) Continuing education. Beginning July 1, 2001, each person registered as a dental assistant shall complete 20 hours of continuing education approved by the board during the biennium period as a condition of registration renewal requirements as specified in 650—Chapter 25.
   20.12(1) At least two continuing education hours must be in the subject area of infection control.
   20.12(2) A maximum of three hours may be in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
   20.12(3) For dental assistants who have radiography qualification, at least two hours of continuing education must be obtained in the subject area of radiography.
   20.12(4) For the renewal period July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2003, at least one hour of continuing education must be obtained in the subject area of jurisprudence.

ITEM 16. Rescind 650—Chapter 25 and adopt the following new chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 25
CONTINUING EDUCATION

650—25.1(153) Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, these definitions shall apply:

“Advisory committee” means a committee on continuing education formed to review and advise the board with respect to applications for approval of sponsors or activities. The committee’s members shall be appointed by the board and consist of at least one member of the board, two licensed dentists with expertise in the area of professional continuing education, two licensed dental hygienists with expertise in the area of professional continuing education, and two registered dental assistants with expertise in the area of professional continuing education. The advisory committee on continuing education may recommend approval or denial of applications or requests submitted to it pending final approval or disapproval of the board at its next meeting.
“Board” means the dental board.

“Continuing dental education” consists of education activities designed to review existing concepts and techniques and to update knowledge on advances in dental and medical sciences. The objective of continuing dental education is to improve the knowledge, skills, and ability of the individual to deliver the highest quality of service to the public and professions.

Continuing dental education should favorably enrich past dental education experiences. Programs should make it possible for practitioners to attune dental practice to new knowledge as it becomes available. All continuing dental education should strengthen the skills of critical inquiry, balanced judgment and professional technique.

“Dental public health” is the science and art of preventing and controlling dental diseases and promoting dental health through organized community efforts. It is that form of dental practice in which the community serves as the patient rather than the individual. It is concerned with the dental health education of the public, with applied dental research, with the administration of group dental care programs, and with the prevention and control of dental diseases on a community basis.

“Hour of continuing education” means one unit of credit which shall be granted for each hour of contact instruction and shall be designated as a “clock hour.” This credit shall apply to either academic or clinical instruction.

“Licensee” means any person who has been issued a certificate to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in the state of Iowa.

“Registrant” means any person registered to practice as a dental assistant in the state of Iowa.

“Self-study activities” means the study of something by oneself, without direct supervision or attendance in a class. “Self-study activities” may include Internet-based coursework, television viewing, video programs, correspondence work or research, or computer programs that are interactive and require branching, navigation, participation and decision making on the part of the viewer. Internet-based webinars which include the involvement of an instructor and participants in real time and which allow for communication with the instructor through messaging, telephone or other means shall not be construed to be self-study activities.

“Sponsor” means a person, educational institution, or organization sponsoring continuing education activities which has been approved by the board as a sponsor pursuant to these rules. During the time a person, educational institution, or organization is an approved sponsor, all continuing education activities of such person or organization may be deemed automatically approved provided the continuing education activities meet the continuing education guidelines of the board.

650—25.2(153) Continuing education administrative requirements.

25.2(1) Each person licensed to practice dentistry or dental hygiene in this state shall complete during the biennium renewal period a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education approved by the board.

25.2(2) Each person registered to practice dental assisting in this state shall complete during the biennium renewal period a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education approved by the board.

25.2(3) Each person who holds a qualification in dental radiography in this state shall complete during the biennium renewal period a minimum of two hours of continuing education in the area of dental radiography.

25.2(4) The continuing education compliance period shall be the 24-month period commencing September 1 and ending on August 31 of the renewal cycle.

25.2(5) Hours of continuing education credit may be obtained by attending and participating in a continuing education activity either previously approved by the board or which otherwise meets the requirements herein and is approved by the board pursuant to rule 650—25.5(153).

25.2(6) It is the responsibility of each licensee or registrant to finance the costs of continuing education.

650—25.3(153) Documentation of continuing education hours.

25.3(1) Every licensee or registrant shall maintain a record of all courses attended by keeping the certificates of attendance for four years. The board reserves the right to require any licensee or registrant
to submit the certificates of attendance for the continuing education courses attended. If selected for continuing education audit, the licensee or registrant shall file a signed continuing education form and submit certificates or other evidence of attendance.

25.3(2) Licensees and registrants are responsible for obtaining proof of attendance forms when attending courses. Clock hours must be verified by the sponsor with the issuance of proof of attendance forms to the licensee or registrant.

25.3(3) Each licensee or registrant shall report the number of continuing education credit hours completed during the current renewal cycle in compliance with this chapter. Such report shall be filed with the board at the time of application for renewal of a dental or dental hygiene license or renewal of dental assistant registration.

25.3(4) No carryover of credits from one biennial period to the next will be allowed.


25.4(1) The following courses are required for licensees and registrants:

a. Mandatory reporter training for child abuse and dependent adult abuse.

b. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

c. Infection control.

d. Jurisprudence.

25.4(2) Mandatory reporter training for child abuse and dependent adult abuse.

a. Licensees or registrants who regularly examine, attend, counsel or treat children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or conditions for exemptions as identified in paragraph “f” of this subrule, pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 232. Completion of training in this course shall result in two hours of continuing education credit.

b. Licensees or registrants who regularly examine, attend, counsel or treat adults in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in dependent adult abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or conditions for exemptions as identified in paragraph “f” of this subrule, pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 235B.

c. Licensees or registrants who regularly examine, attend, counsel or treat both children and adults in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of at least two hours of training on the identification and reporting of abuse in children and dependent adults in the previous five years or conditions for exemptions as identified in paragraph “f” of this subrule, pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 232 and 235B. Training may be completed through separate courses or in one combined course that includes curricula for identifying and reporting child abuse and dependent adult abuse. Completion of training in this combined course shall result in three hours of continuing education credit.

d. The licensee or registrant shall maintain written documentation for five years after completion of the mandatory training, including program date(s), content, duration, and proof of participation. The board may audit this information at any time within the five-year period.

e. Training programs in child and dependent adult abuse identification and reporting that are approved by the board are those that use a curriculum approved by the abuse education review panel of the department of public health or a training program offered by the department of human services, the department of education, an area education agency, a school district, the Iowa law enforcement academy, an Iowa college or university, or a similar state agency.

f. Exemptions. Licensees and registrants shall be exempt from the requirement for mandatory training for identifying and reporting child and dependent adult abuse if the board determines that it is in the public interest or that at the time of the renewal the licensee or registrant is issued an extension or exemption pursuant to rule 650—25.10(153).

25.4(3) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Licensees and registrants shall furnish evidence of valid certification for CPR, which shall be credited toward the continuing education requirement for renewal of the license, faculty permit or registration. Such evidence shall be filed at the time of renewal of the license, faculty permit or registration. Valid certification means certification by an organization on an annual basis or, if that certifying organization requires certification on a less frequent basis, evidence
that the licensee or registrant has been properly certified for each year covered by the renewal period. In addition, the course must include a clinical component. Credit hours awarded for certification in CPR shall not exceed three hours of required continuing education hours per biennium.

25.4(4) Infection control. Beginning September 1, 2018, licensees and registrants shall complete continuing education in the area of infection control. Licensees and registrants shall furnish evidence of continuing education completed within the previous biennium in the area of infection control standards, as required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Completion of continuing education in the area of infection control shall be credited toward the required continuing education requirement in the renewal period during which it was completed. A minimum of one hour shall be submitted.

25.4(5) Jurisprudence. Beginning September 1, 2018, licensees and registrants shall complete continuing education in the area of Iowa jurisprudence related to the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental assisting. Licensees and registrants shall furnish evidence of continuing education completed within the previous biennium in the area of Iowa jurisprudence. Completion of continuing education in the area of Iowa jurisprudence shall be credited toward the required continuing education requirement in the renewal period during which it was completed. A minimum of one hour shall be submitted.

650—25.5(153) Acceptable programs and activities.

25.5(1) A continuing education activity shall be acceptable and not require board approval if it meets the following criteria:

a. It constitutes an organized program of learning (including a workshop or symposium) which contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee or registrant and is of value to dentistry and applicable to oral health care; and

b. It pertains to common subjects or other subject matters which relate to the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting which are intended to refresh and review, or update knowledge of new or existing concepts and techniques, and enhance the dental health of the public; and

c. It is conducted by individuals who have sufficient special education, training and experience to be considered experts concerning the subject matter of the program. The program must include a written outline or manual that substantively pertains to the subject matter of the program.

25.5(2) Types of activities acceptable for continuing dental education credit may include:

a. A dental science course that includes topics which address the clinical practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, dental assisting and dental public health.

b. Courses in record keeping, medical conditions which may have an effect on oral health, ergonomics related to clinical practice, HIPAA, risk management, sexual boundaries, communication with patients, OSHA regulations, and the discontinuation of practice related to the transition of patient care and patient records.

c. Sessions attended at a multiday convention-type meeting. A multiday convention-type meeting is held at a national, state, or regional level and involves a variety of concurrent educational experiences directly related to the practice of dentistry.

d. Postgraduate study relating to health sciences.

e. Successful completion of a recognized specialty examination or the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) examination.

f. Self-study activities.

g. Original presentation of continuing dental education courses.

h. Publication of scientific articles in professional journals related to dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting.

25.5(3) Credit may be given for other continuing education activities upon request and approval by the board.

650—25.6(153) Unacceptable programs and activities.

25.6(1) Unacceptable subject matter and activity types include, but are not limited to, personal development, business aspects of practice, business strategy, financial management, marketing, sales,
practice growth, personnel management, insurance, collective bargaining, and events where volunteer services are provided. While desirable, those subjects and activities are not applicable to dental skills, knowledge, and competence. Therefore, such courses will receive no credit toward renewal. The board may deny credit for any course.

25.6(2) Inquiries relating to acceptability of continuing dental education activities, approval of sponsors, or exemptions should be directed to Advisory Committee on Continuing Dental Education, Iowa Dental Board, 400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite D, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4687.

650—25.7(153) Prior approval of activities. A person or organization, other than an approved sponsor, that desires prior approval for a course, program or other continuing education activity or that desires to establish approval of the activity prior to attendance may apply for approval to the board, using board-approved forms, at least 90 days in advance of the commencement of the activity. Within 90 days after receipt of such application, the board shall advise the licensee or registrant in writing whether the activity is approved and the number of hours allowed. All requests may be reviewed by the advisory committee on continuing education prior to final approval or denial by the board. An application fee as specified in 650—Chapter 15 is required. Continuing education course approval shall be valid for a period of five years following the date of board approval. Thereafter, courses may be resubmitted for approval. Courses which clearly meet the criteria listed under acceptable programs and activities are not required to be submitted for approval.

650—25.8(153) Postapproval of activities. A licensee or registrant seeking credit for attendance and participation in an educational activity which was not conducted by an approved sponsor or otherwise approved and which does not clearly meet the acceptable programs and activities listed in rule 650—25.5(153) may apply for approval to the board using board-approved forms. Within 90 days after receipt of such application, the board shall advise the licensee or registrant in writing whether the activity is approved and the number of hours allowed. All requests may be reviewed by the advisory committee on continuing education prior to final approval or denial by the board. An application fee as specified in 650—Chapter 15 is required.

650—25.9(153) Designation of continuing education hours. Continuing education hours shall be determined by the length of a continuing education course in clock hours. For the purpose of calculating continuing education hours for renewal of a license or registration, the following rules shall apply:

25.9(1) Attendance at a multiday convention.
   a. Attendees at a multiday convention may receive a maximum of 1.5 hours of credit per day with the maximum of six hours of credit allowed per biennium.
   b. Sponsors of multiday conventions shall submit to the board for review and prior approval guidelines for awarding credit for convention attendance.

25.9(2) Presenters or attendees of table clinics at a meeting.
   a. Four hours of credit shall be allowed for presentation of an original table clinic at a meeting as verified by the sponsor when the subject matter conforms with rule 650—25.5(153).
   b. Attendees at the table clinic session of a dental, dental hygiene, or dental assisting meeting shall receive two hours of credit as verified by the sponsor when the subject matter conforms with rule 650—25.5(153).

25.9(3) Postgraduate study relating to health sciences shall receive 15 credits per semester.

25.9(4) Successful completion of a specialty examination or the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) shall result in 15 hours of credit.

25.9(5) Self-study activities shall result in a maximum of 12 hours of continuing education credit per biennium.

25.9(6) An original presentation of continuing dental education shall result in credit double that which the participants receive. Additional credit will not be granted for the repeating of presentations within the biennium. Credit is not given for teaching that represents part of the licensee’s or registrant’s normal academic duties as a full-time or part-time faculty member or consultant.
25.9(7) Publication of scientific articles in professional journals related to dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting shall result in 5 hours of credit per article with the maximum of 20 hours allowed per biennium.

650—25.10(153) Extensions and exemptions.

25.10(1) Illness or disability. The board may, in individual cases involving physical disability or illness, grant an exemption of the continuing education requirements or an extension of time within which to fulfill the same or make the required reports. No exemption or extension of time shall be granted unless written application is made on forms provided by the board and signed by the licensee or registrant and a licensed health care professional. Extensions or exemptions of the continuing education requirements may be granted by the board for any period of time not to exceed one calendar year. In the event that the physical disability or illness upon which an exemption has been granted continues beyond the period granted, the licensee or registrant must apply for an extension of the exemption. The board may, as a condition of the exemption, require the applicant to make up a certain portion or all of the continuing education requirements.

25.10(2) Other extensions or exemptions. Extensions or exemptions of continuing education requirements will be considered by the board on an individual basis. Licensees or registrants will be exempt from the continuing education requirements for:

a. Periods that the person serves honorably on active duty in the military services;

b. Periods that the person practices the person’s profession in another state or district having a continuing education requirement and the licensee or registrant meets all requirements of that state or district for practice therein;

c. Periods that the person is a government employee working in the person’s licensed or registered specialty and assigned to duty outside the United States;

d. Other periods of active practice and absence from the state approved by the board;

e. The current biennium renewal period, or portion thereof, following original issuance of the license;

f. For dental assistants registered pursuant to rule 650—20.7(153), the current biennium renewal period, or portion thereof, following original issuance of the registration.

650—25.11(153) Exemptions for inactive practitioners. No continuing education hours are required to renew a license or registration on inactive status until application for reactivation is made. A licensee or registrant with a license or registration on inactive status is prohibited from practicing unless and until the license or registration is restored to active status.

650—25.12(153) Approval of sponsors.

25.12(1) An organization or person which desires approval as a sponsor of courses, programs, or other continuing education activities shall apply for approval to the board stating its education history, including approximate dates, subjects offered, total hours of instruction presented, and names and qualifications of instructors. All applications shall be reviewed by the advisory committee on continuing education prior to final approval or denial by the board.

25.12(2) Prospective sponsors must apply to the board using approved forms in order to obtain approved sponsor status. An application fee as specified in 650—Chapter 15 is required. Sponsors must pay the biennial renewal fee as specified in 650—Chapter 15 and file a sponsor recertification record report biennially.

25.12(3) The person or organization sponsoring continuing education activities shall make a written record of the Iowa licensees or registrants in attendance, maintain the written record for a minimum of five years, and submit the record upon the request of the board. The sponsor of the continuing education activity shall also provide proof of attendance and the number of credit hours awarded to the licensee or registrant who participates in the continuing education activity.

25.12(4) Sponsors must be formally organized and adhere to board rules for planning and providing continuing dental education activities. Programs sponsored by individuals or institutions for commercial
or proprietary purposes, especially programs in which the speaker advertises or urges the use of any particular dental product or appliance, may be recognized for credit on a prior-approval basis only. When courses are promoted as approved continuing education courses which do not meet the requirements as defined by the board, the sponsor will be required to refund the registration fee to the participants. Approved sponsors may offer noncredit courses provided the participants have been informed that no credit will be given. Failure to meet this requirement may result in loss of approved sponsor status.

650—25.13(153) Review of programs or sponsors. The board on its own motion or at the recommendation of the advisory committee on continuing education may monitor or review any continuing education program or sponsors already approved by the board. Upon evidence of a failure to meet the requirements of rule 650—25.12(153), the board may revoke the approval status of the sponsor. Upon evidence of significant variation in the program presented from the program approved, the board may deny all or any part of the approved hours granted to the program. A provider that wishes to appeal the board’s decision regarding revocation of approval status or denial of continuing education credit shall file an appeal within 30 days of the board’s decision. A timely appeal shall initiate a contested case proceeding. The contested case shall be conducted pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A and 650—Chapter 51. The written decision issued at the conclusion of a contested case hearing shall be considered final agency action.

650—25.14(153) Noncompliance with continuing dental education requirements. It is the licensee’s or registrant’s personal responsibility to comply with these rules. The license or registration of individuals not complying with the continuing dental education rules may be subject to disciplinary action by the board or nonrenewal of the license or registration.

650—25.15(153) Dental hygiene continuing education. The dental hygiene committee, in its discretion, shall make recommendations to the board for approval or denial of requests pertaining to dental hygiene education. The dental hygiene committee may utilize the continuing education advisory committee as needed. The board’s review of the dental hygiene committee recommendation is subject to 650—Chapter 1. The following items pertaining to dental hygiene shall be forwarded to the dental hygiene committee for review.

1. Dental hygiene continuing education requirements and requests for approval of programs, activities and sponsors.
2. Requests by dental hygienists for waivers, extensions and exemptions of the continuing education requirements.
3. Requests for exemptions from inactive dental hygiene practitioners.
4. Requests for reinstatement from inactive dental hygiene practitioners.
5. Appeals of denial of dental hygiene continuing education and conduct of hearings as necessary.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.10, 153.15A, and 153.39 and chapter 272C.

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