

New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners  
Declaratory Ruling: Use of Silver Diamine Fluoride

**This declaratory ruling is issued to the Petitioner with respect to the particular circumstances and facts discussed herein and represents a holding of the Board on those circumstances and facts for Petitioner only.**

BACKGROUND

On March 7, 2016, Robert Keene, DMD appeared before the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board") seeking an answer regarding the use of Silver Diamine Fluoride ("SDF"). The Board considered his appearance and his submitted documents as a petition for declaratory ruling, pursuant to Den 214.01. On March 7, 2016, the Board voted to issue a declaratory ruling. On April 24, 2016, the Board issued a declaratory ruling, finding that because Silver Diamine Fluoride is included in those substances listed in Den 402.01(a)(6), hygienists may apply it.

At its June 7, 2016 meeting, the Board considered another question regarding Silver Diamine Fluoride. Dr. Mark Harrison asked the Board if a dental assistant may apply Silver Diamine Fluoride under his supervision.

FACTS AND LAW

Den 402.01 (a)(6) provides as follows:

Den 402.01 Hygienists' Duties: A dental hygienist shall perform the following duties:

(a) Under general supervision, as defined in Den 101.11 and arranged by degree of supervision in Den 302.02:

(6) Apply topical preventive or prophylactic agents such as non-prescription antimicrobial agents;

Den 401.02 provides as follows:

Den 401.02 Certified Dental Assistants' and Graduate Dental Assistants' Duties. Dental assistants who have completed the certification process of the Dental Assisting National Board and dental assistants who have graduated from CODA accredited school of dental assisting may, in addition to the duties of assistants, perform the following duties under direct supervision as defined in Den 101.06 and arranged by degree of supervision in Den 302.02:

- (a) Take dental and medical histories;
- (b) Place and remove rubber dams;
- (c) Place and remove matrices;
- (d) Apply topical fluoride after prophylaxis by a licensed professional;

- (e) Apply non-prescription topical anesthesia;
- (f) Apply non-prescription desensitizing agents to the cementum and dentin;
- (g) Take and record blood pressure;
- (h) Select impression trays, seat, hold, remove and pour impressions for study models, single arch athletic mouth guards, custom fluoride trays and whitening trays;
- (i) Insert athletic mouthguards;
- (j) Perform pulpal vitality testing procedures;
- (k) Remove sutures and dressings; and
- (l) After at least 400 hours work experience in clinical dental assisting:
  - (1) Make final impressions;
  - (2) Place periodontal dressings;
  - (3) Place amalgam prior to condensing by a dentist;
  - (4) Place cavity liners and bases;
  - (5) Place and remove gingival retraction cord;
  - (6) Place and remove temporary restorations, not to include temporary crowns and bridges unless qualified pursuant to Den 302.05, and not to include the use of intraoral rotary instruments;
  - (7) Cement bands and bond brackets, not to include the use of rotary instruments to remove excess cement or bonding material;
  - (8) Make bite registrations when maximum intercuspation can be achieved; and
  - (9) Place and remove dry socket medications.

#### RULING

At its June 7, 2016 meeting, the Board voted that dental assistants may not apply Silver Diamine Fluoride because it is not a topical fluoride; it is an antimicrobial agent.

Voted as approved by the Board on July 11, 2016.

Signature: Constance N. Stratton  
Constance N. Stratton, Executive Director  
Authorized Representative for the Board