

New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners
Declaratory Ruling: Clarification of Continuing Education Units (CEU's)

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 October 18, 2015, the Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”) received a petition for declaratory ruling, pursuant to Den 214.01. On November 2, 2015, the Board voted to issue the following declaratory ruling.

FACTS AND LAW

Den 301.04 requires the following for dental license renewal:

(17) Whether the applicant has completed 40 hours of continuing education, at least 30 of which are clinical in nature, since the end of the previous dentist biennial registration period;

Den 403.02(d) defines “Continuing education unit” (CEU) as follows: “one hour of attendance at lectures, seminars and meetings, 30 minutes of attendance at clinical or laboratory participatory courses, or 20 minutes as a presenter of an original paper, essay, or formal lecture to a group of professionals;”

Den 403.03(d) provides as follows:

(d) One CEU shall be given for each hour of attendance at lectures, seminars, and meetings. For each hour of attendance at clinical or laboratory participatory courses, 2 CEUs shall be given. Successful completion of an entire course or segment of a course shall be required to receive continuing education credit for that course.

Den 403.07(c) provides as follows:

(c) A licensee shall receive credit for up to 20% of the required CEUs in the following categories:

- (1) An original, dental-related scientific paper written by the licensee and published in a scientific or professional journal; or
- (2) An original presentation of a paper, essay or formal lecture to a group of fellow professionals.

TaeHyun Kwon, DDS has asked the following questions:

1. Would I get any CE credits for upcoming renewal on April 30, 2016, from completing a 3 year Periodontology Residency on May 31, 2014?
2. Would I receive any CE credit for obtaining American Board of Periodontology Certification in May of 2015?
3. How many CE credits would I receive for each publication of a paper in a peer reviewed dental journal?

RULING

At its November 2, 2015 meeting, the Board voted as follows:

1. The licensee is entitled to 40 CEU credits for completion of a 3 year Periodontology Residency on May 31, 2014. The previous dentist biennial registration period ended on May 1, 2014. The completion of the residency occurred after May 1, 2014, therefore, the licensee is entitled to continuing education credits taken after May 1, 2014, such as the residency.
2. The licensee is not entitled to credit for American Board of Periodontology Certification because Den 403.02(d) does not include certification in specialty in the definition of "continuing education unit".
3. The licensee is entitled to 2 CEU's for publication of a paper in a peer reviewed dental journal. Den 403.07(c) provides that 2 CEU's are awarded for a dental-related scientific paper written by a licensee and published in a scientific or professional journal. The Board determines that publication of a paper in a peer-reviewed dental journal meets the intent of Den 403.07(c).

Voted as approved by the Board on December 7, 2015

Signature: Constance N. Stratton 12/08/15
Constance N. Stratton, Executive Director
Authorized Representative for the Board