

CHAPTER 221

AN ACT concerning continuing education for dentists and amending and supplementing P.L.1991, c.490.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.45:6-10.10 Definitions relative to continuing education for dentists.

1. For the purposes of P.L.1991, c.490 (C.45:6-10.1 et seq.) and this 2009 amendatory and supplementary act:

“Core continuing dental education” means any minimum continuing education hours in specified subjects determined by the board that shall be completed to satisfy the biennial continuing education requirement applicable to dentists pursuant to P.L.1991, c.490 (C.45:6-10.1 et seq.).

“Eligible person” means: (1) any person under the age of 19 whose parent or guardian attests that he meets the eligibility requirements for, and is enrolled in, the NJ FamilyCare Program established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et seq.); (2) a child who is in the custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Children and Families; or (3) any person who attests that he meets the eligibility requirements for, and is enrolled in, the Medicaid program established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.), the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled program established pursuant to P.L.1975, c.194 (C.30:4D-20 et seq.), or the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program established pursuant to P.L.2001, c.96 (C.30:4D-43 et seq.).

“Volunteer dental service” means dental care provided, without charge, to an eligible person, or to a minor in a primary school, secondary school, or other school setting, or to a patient through a dental clinic as defined by section 1 of P.L.1951, c.199 (C.45:6-15.1), in accordance with the standards, procedures, requirements, and limitations as may be established by the board.

2. Section 1 of P.L.1991, c.490 (C.45:6-10.1) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:6-10.1 Continuing dental education required.

1. The New Jersey State Board of Dentistry shall require each person licensed as a dentist, as a condition for biennial registration pursuant to R.S.45:6-10 and P.L.1972, c.108 (C.45:1-7), to complete a requisite number of credits of continuing dental education, as determined by the board pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.490 (C.45:6-10.2) during each biennial registration period.

3. Section 2 of P.L.1991, c.490 (C.45:6-10.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:6-10.2 Standards for continuing education.

2. a. The board shall:

(1) Establish standards for continuing dental education, including the subject matter and content of courses of study, and may establish any core continuing dental educational requirements pursuant to subsection c. of this section that all licensees shall complete as a condition of biennial licensure;

(2) Accredited educational and other programs offering credit towards the continuing dental education requirements; and

(3) Accredited other equivalent educational programs, including, but not limited to, meetings of constituents and components of dental professional associations recognized by

the board, examinations, papers, publications, scientific presentations, teaching and research appointments, table clinics and scientific exhibits, and shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory proof of the completion of these programs.

b. In the case of education courses or programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to one credit.

c. The board may, in its discretion, delineate specific topics of dental education for any biennial renewal period or periods as core continuing dental education requirements that the board deems necessary to address developments in science or technology or particular issues or problems. The board shall provide notification of the specific topics and the registration periods to which those requirements apply by direct communication to licensees or through electronic media.

4. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.490 (C.45:6-10.3) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:6-10.3 Compliance and evaluation.

3. The board may:

a. Establish procedures for monitoring compliance with the continuing dental education requirements; and

b. Establish procedures to evaluate and grant approval to providers of continuing dental education courses and programs.

5. Section 4 of P.L.1991, c. 490 (C.45:6-10.4) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:6-10.4 Hardship waivers, waivers for certain volunteers.

4. a. The board may in its discretion, waive requirements for continuing dental education on an individual basis for reasons of hardship such as illness or disability, retirement of the license, or other good cause.

b. The board may, in its discretion, waive up to one half of the biennial continuing dental education requirements for a licensee who renders volunteer dental services to eligible persons, provided that core continuing dental educational requirements, if any, shall not be waived for this purpose; and one half-hour of one continuing dental education credit hour shall be waived for each hour of volunteer dental service.

6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month next following enactment, but the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

Approved January 16, 2010.