

Advocacy History in Oregon

2025

- **Oregon Board of Dentistry joins CRDTS**

The Oregon Board of Dentistry became a member of the Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) organization that develops & administers examinations for dental & dental hygiene licensure. The Board benefits from becoming a member of CRDTS because it gains a voice in the development and enhancement of clinical board examinations that it accepts for licensure. The [Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association](#) & the [Oregon dental hygiene program directors](#) provided letters of support for this action.

- **DDH Compact bill introduced, but did not pass**

[House Bill 2676](#), if passed, would have enacted the Dentist & Dental Hygienist (DDH) Compact in Oregon. Enacting this interstate agreement would have allowed dentists & dental hygienists licensed in Oregon to apply for compact privilege in participating states instead of applying for a license in those states. The [Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association](#) & the [Oregon dental hygiene program directors](#) provided letters of support for this bill. In spite of strong support for this bill, several other compact bills received strong opposition testimony & all compact bills including HB 2676 were “killed” in the House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care.

2024

- **Oregon Board of Dentistry removes stigmatizing questions from licensure**

The Oregon Board of Dentistry voted to remove “have you ever” questions related to receiving counseling, therapy or treatment for mental health issues, including substance misuse, from applications for initial licensure and license renewal for dentists & dental hygienists in Oregon. These changes aligned with updated language already in use by the Oregon Medical Board for physicians. The [Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association](#) partnered with the Oregon Dental Association and other stakeholder groups to advocate for this change.

- **Dental Assistants can administer local anesthesia**

The Oregon Board of Dentistry adopted [OAR 818-042-0096](#) that allows dental assistants who holds a Local Anesthesia Functions Certificate (LAFC) to administer local anesthetic agents and local anesthetic reversal agents under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist. In order to obtain the LAFC, dental assistants must hold an Oregon EFDA Certificate and successfully complete a Board approved course of instruction. The Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association provided a [letter of support](#) for the public rulemaking hearing.

2023

- **Dental hygienists can perform phlebotomy procedures**

In October 2023 the Oregon Board of Dentistry adopted administrative rules that allow dental therapists, dental hygienists and certified anesthesia dental assistants to perform phlebotomy procedures under the indirect supervision of a dentist after they have successfully completed a course in intravenous access or phlebotomy approved by the Board. These procedures include initiating an intravenous (IV) infusion line for a patient being prepared for IV medications, sedation, or general anesthesia, and performing a phlebotomy blood draw to be used for treatment of a condition that is within the scope of the practice for dentistry. The dental therapist rule is OAR 818-038-0022, the dental hygienist rule is [OAR 818-035-0030\(3\)](#) and the certified anesthesia dental assistant rule is OAR 818-042-0117.