



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMEDINST 6600.17
BUMED-M3/5
10 Apr 2009

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6600.17

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Ships and Stations Having Dental Personnel

Subj: ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ANESTHETIC AGENTS BY DENTAL
HYGIENISTS

Encl: (1) Topics of Didactic Instruction Included in Navy Medicine's Course on the
Administration of Local Anesthetic Agents by Dental Hygienists

1. Purpose. To establish policy and guidelines for administration of local anesthetic agents by dental hygienists in the Navy Health Care System.
2. Cancellation. BUMED letter 6600 Ser 63/0084 of 3 Jul 1991, BUMED letter 6600 Ser 63/2U762576 of 10 Nov 1992, and BUMED letter 6600 Ser 63/3U785078 of 24 Mar 1993 are hereby cancelled.
3. Scope. This instruction applies to all Naval medical treatment facilities (MTFs) and dental treatment facilities (DTFs) ashore and afloat. It applies to all active duty, government service and contract civilian dental hygienists authorized to provide local anesthetic agents in MTFs and DTFs ashore and afloat.
4. Background. Dental hygienists maintain and improve the oral health of their patients by providing a variety of preventive services including the removal of soft and hard deposits from teeth. These procedures often require local anesthetic for patient comfort. Many dental hygiene training programs include instruction on the administration of local anesthetics. Programs not providing this instruction provide enough training in the basic sciences that graduates can learn to use local anesthetic agents safely by completing post-graduate training specific for this purpose.
5. Policy
 - a. The decision to allow dental hygienists to administer local anesthetic agents within MTFs and DTFs is at the discretion of the commanding officer.
 - b. Dental hygienists must pass the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination before administering local anesthetic agents.
 - c. Dental hygienists administering local anesthetic agents must provide proof attesting to the successful completion of one of the following training requirements:

- (1) Graduate from a hygiene program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation which includes instruction in the specific function of local anesthetic administration;
 - (2) Complete a training course specific to the administration of local anesthetic agents by dental hygienists offered by a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation;
 - (3) Complete Navy Medicine's course on the administration of local anesthetic agents by dental hygienists.
 - (a) Participants in this course must presently be employed by a Department of the Navy medical or dental command as a dental hygienist.
 - (b) Instructors of this course must be a privileged dentist appointed in writing by the commanding officer. There must be at least one instructor for every six participants.
 - (c) Course modules, including a syllabus and PowerPoint slide presentations of didactic material, must be requested by appointed course instructors from the Specialty Leader for Periodontics. Enclosure (1) provides an overview of topics of didactic instruction included in the course modules.
 - (d) Participants must successfully administer both block and infiltrative injections during their training session. Sufficient numbers of injections must be administered by the participant to satisfy the instructor of the individual's capability to administer local anesthetics. Participants may have the opportunity to experience the effects of block and infiltrative anesthesia, unless contraindicated by a medical condition.
 - (e) Students must also pass the written examination portion of this course. Written final examinations must be obtained by appointed course instructors from the Specialty Leader for Periodontics.
 - (f) Upon successful completion of the course, participants will practice under close supervision of a licensed dentist for a period of one month or until a competent level of skill is achieved. Close supervision is defined as the hygienist reviewing the patient's medical history, type and dose of local anesthetic agent to be used, and method of delivery with the supervising dentists prior to administering local anesthetic agents. Competence is defined as a level of skill displaying special ability or knowledge derived from training and experience.
 - (g) Commands must document participant's training per command policy and designated departmental criteria.
- d. Non-personal service contract providers are subject to limitations of their state licensure regarding administration of local anesthetic agents.

e. Dental hygienists must be under the direct supervision of a privileged dentist when administering local anesthetic agents. Direct supervision is defined as the supervising dentist being in the same building.

f. Dental hygienists administering local anesthetic agents must have completed Basic Life Support (BLS) training for health care providers per local command policy.

g. MTFs and DTFs with dental hygienists who administer local anesthetic agents must establish policies for the documentation of ongoing competency to perform this skill with volume and quality indicators, to include, at a minimum, the number of injections, appropriate patient outcomes, and appropriate response to adverse patient outcomes.

h. Under no circumstances can a dental hygienist be compelled to administer local anesthetic agents.

6. Action

a. Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) shall:

(1) Ensure all aspects of this instruction are implemented and followed for all dental hygienists using local anesthetic agents in Navy MTFs and DTFs ashore and afloat.

(2) Ensure the Navy Medicine Specialty Leader for Periodontics maintains cognizance over:

(a) Navy Medicine policies governing the administration of local anesthetic agents by dental hygienists.

(b) Navy Medicine's course on the administration of local anesthetic agents by dental hygienists.

1. Maintain course modules, including final written examinations.

2. Distribute course modules and final written examinations.

3. Update course and course modules, including written final examinations, as necessary to provide for ongoing scientific advances in the field, such as non-injectable local anesthetics.

b. Commanders of Navy Medicine East, Navy Medicine West, and Navy Medicine National Capital Area shall ensure commands within each Navy Medical Region follow all aspects of this instruction.

BUMEDINST 6600.17
10 Apr 2009

c. Commanders, Naval Medical Centers; Commanding Officers of military treatment facilities and dental treatment facilities; and Senior Medical Department Officers aboard ships shall ensure that all dental hygienists administering local anesthetic agents are properly trained, monitored for competency, and supervised according to the guidance provided in this instruction.


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**TOPICS OF DIDACTIC INSTRUCTION INCLUDED IN NAVY MEDICINE'S
COURSE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ANESTHETIC AGENTS
BY DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

Training Module 1	History of Local Anesthesia
Training Module 2	Legal Issues
Training Module 3	Pain Control
Training Module 4	Neurophysiology
Training Module 5	Pharmacology of Local Anesthetics
Training Module 6	Armamentarium
Training Module 7	Basic Injection Techniques
Training Module 8	Maxillary Injection Techniques
Training Module 9	Mandibular Injection Techniques
Training Module 10	Complications