



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD
FALLS CHURCH VA 22042

IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDINST 6600.23
BUMED-M3
27 Dec 2018

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6600.23

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Ref: (a) DoDM 6025.13, Medical Quality Assurance and Clinical Quality Management in the Military Health System of 29 October 2013
(b) OPNAVINST 1540.56B
(c) BUMEDINST 5050.6A
(d) BUMEDINST 1500.20A

1. Purpose. To provide guidance for licensure of dental hygienists practicing in Navy Medicine within the Department of Defense.

2. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to all ships and stations having dental department personnel.

3. Background. Reference (a) contains basic requirements for healthcare provider credentials. This policy mandates all dental hygienists practicing within the Military Health System possess an active, unrestricted license to practice or a written plan of supervision. The American Dental Hygienists Association Overview of Dental Hygiene Clinical Examination Requirements provides an overview, by State, of all necessary requirements and is available at http://www.adha.org/resources-docs/7313_Overview_Clinical_Examinations.pdf.

4. Policy. Per reference (a), all members of the uniformed services (active and reserve), Federal employees, volunteers (when considered to be employees), and personal services contractors working as dental hygienists in Navy Medicine require an active, unrestricted State license to practice. For Navy Medicine, only active duty dental hygienists without an active, unrestricted State license can practice under a written plan of supervision with a licensed dental hygienist (i.e., registered dental hygienist) or privileged dentist.

5. Action. This instruction provides guidance for the supervision plan, licensure funding, and continuing education requirements for all Navy Medicine active duty dental hygienists.

a. Plan of Supervision

(1) Allows the dental hygienist to continue to provide the full scope of dental hygiene services without degradation of the department's treatment capabilities for a defined period of time not to exceed 18 months.

(2) Must include level of supervision, identity of supervisor, evaluation criteria, and frequency of evaluation.

(3) Must identify what actions the dental hygienist is taking to obtain an active, unrestricted State license, and an estimated date to be licensed.

(a) Reevaluate the dental hygienist's clinical practice and actions taken to obtain required licensure before initiating a new plan of supervision.

(b) Enlisted dental hygienists will not receive negative markings if licensure is not completed within allotted timeframe due to funding.

b. Licensure Funding. Per reference (b), Navy Medicine will pay expenses for military members to obtain professional credentials related to mandatory requirements to gain or hold a rating, job, position, designator, subspecialty coded billet, or additional qualification designator.

c. Continuing Education

(1) Per reference (c), Navy Medicine activities may pay expenses for military members to obtain professional credentials.

(2) Per reference (d), The Navy Medicine Professional Development Center is the training agent for Navy Medicine and must execute oversight for funding professional credentials.

6. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned for the standard subject identification codes (SSIC) 1000, 2000, and 4000 through 13000 series per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local records manager or the DON/AA DRMD program office.

7. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, Healthcare Operations (BUMED-M3) will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary

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of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.


TERRY J. MOULTON
Acting

Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via the Navy Medicine Web site at, <http://www.med.navy.mil/directives/Pages/BUMEDInstructions.aspx>