



# DHCC

## Dental Hygiene Committee of California



### Executive Officer's Report

2015 was an exciting and exhausting year. Much of our energy was focused on two projects: the new BreEZe online services system and the Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR).

#### BreEZe

BreEZe will provide Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) applicants and licensees convenient, anytime access to a variety of online services; for example, individuals can:

- file applications;
- renew a license in real time and pay with a credit card; and,
- update contact information such as address of record, e-mail address, and phone number.

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### Dental Hygiene Committee of California

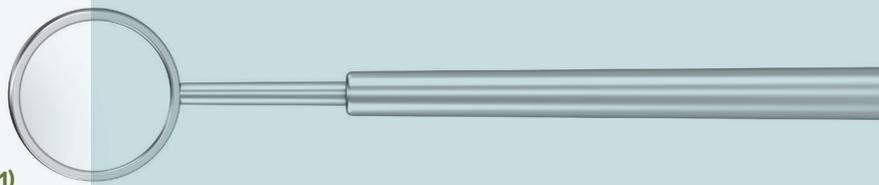
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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

After an extended period of intense work by the Department of Consumer Affairs and DHCC, the new BreZE system is becoming a reality. BreZE is now available for use; the link to BreZE is on the DHCC home page at [www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov).

### **Assembly Bill 1174**

Legislation passed in 2014 approved a new function for dental hygienists. AB 1174 (Chapter 662, Statutes of 2014) became law on January 1, 2015. This new law allows a registered dental hygienist (RDH), a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice (RDHAP), and registered dental hygienists in extended functions (RDHEFs) to place ITRs upon the diagnosis and general supervision of a California-licensed dentist. AB 1174 allows this procedure in private practice settings, public health settings, and settings that constitute a virtual dental home. The virtual dental home concept will allow RDHAPs to provide this service as part of a telehealth model. Dental hygienists are not allowed to perform this new procedure without being formally trained through a DHCC-approved course.

The current Standard 2.18 of the Commission on Dental Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education will require California dental hygiene programs to add the didactic and clinical instruction to their curriculum to ensure that all graduates of DHCC-approved dental hygiene programs are appropriately educated and trained. This will not be something that is optional for a DHCC-approved dental hygiene program in California. Upon graduation, the graduate will be deemed educated and trained to perform this procedure without the need for additional education.

To train the trainers of educational programs for ITRs, the University of the Pacific held training sessions for dental hygiene educators. These training sessions provided a platform for dental hygiene educators to be trained so they in turn can train hygiene program faculty prior to students receiving instruction in ITR and radiographic decision making.

We are extremely excited about this new procedure that dental hygienists in California will be able to perform. This new duty will have a positive impact on underserved populations and communities that have been unable to obtain dental treatment, either because of financial need or distance to treatment locations. California is proud to be one of a handful of states that will be allowing licensees to perform this procedure.

**Lori Hubble,**  
*Executive Officer*



# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Implementation of Assembly Bill 1174:

## PLACEMENT OF INTERIM THERAPEUTIC RESTORATIONS

- 1. Once the dental hygiene faculty members have been trained in the placement of Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITRs), will they be able to place ITRs offsite in a setting not associated with the dental hygiene program (i.e., dental offices, school-based programs, public health settings)?**

Business and Professions Code section 1910.5(2)(i–ii) allows for ITR placement “in a dental office; in a public health setting using telehealth as defined by Business and Professions Code section 2290.5 for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.” Registered dental hygienists (RDH)/registered dental hygienists in alternative practice (RDHAP) who are trained in the placement of ITRs will be able to place ITRs offsite in a setting not associated with the dental hygiene program as long as they comply with the law that requires “the diagnosis, treatment plan and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.” (Business and Professions Code section 1910.5(2)(B))

- 2. Upon the renewal of a RDH/RDHAP pocket license, or the issuance of a new license, will the ITR placement authorization be indicated on the pocket license issued by the Dental Hygiene Committee of California as is done with local anesthetic, nitrous oxide administration, and soft tissue curettage?**

With the implementation of the new BreEZe computer system on January 19, 2016, the ITR designation will be printed on the dental hygiene license for those licensees renewing after February 1, 2016.

- 3. Is an RDH/RDHAP educational program faculty member able to approve the sites for ITR placement?**

No. Per Business and Professions Code section 1910.5(2)(B), the dentist must provide a diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure.

- 4. Once RDH/RDHAP educational program faculty are certified, are they trained to teach and/or supervise placement of the ITR?**

Yes. Once the dentist has approved the placement of the ITR, the RDH/RDHAP faculty may provide instruction and/or supervise the placement of it. Per the protocols established in the Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP), the supervising dentist will be responsible for reviewing the ITRs and evaluating the ITR placement.

- 5. Does the supervising dentist need to have taken the course on ITR placement?**

No. However, the program will need to provide documentation of the mechanisms used to calibrate all dentists who will be supervising and evaluating placement of ITRs. The program dentist(s) are required to review the protocols for ITR placement as set forth in the HWPP.

- 6. Do we have to use the same glass ionomer for the ITR as was used in the training program sponsored by the University of the Pacific (UOP) Dental School?**

No. The protocols being used do not stipulate the brand or type of glass ionomer to be used for the ITR. However, it should be noted that the specific glass ionomer used in the pilot project and the UOP training courses was the tested glass ionomer for ITR placement.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the requirements for making notations in the patient's treatment record?**

Business Professions Code section 1953 requires that every RDH, RDHAP, and RDHEF who performs a service on a patient in a dental office shall identify himself or herself in the patient record by signing his or her name, or an identification number and initials next to the service performed, and shall date those treatment entries in the record. A repeated violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct.

### **Do I have to notify the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) if I change my address?**

Yes. BPC section 1934 states: A licensee who changes his or her physical address of record (AOR) or e-mail address shall notify the DHCC within 30 days of the change. A licensee who changes his or her legal name shall provide the DHCC with documentation of the change within 10 days.

Failure to notify the DHCC of a change of address means that the licensee would no longer have a current address of record and would not receive important information, such as license renewal notices.

The AOR of all licensees is public information. Currently, it is viewable on the DHCC website; however, if you would like the AOR to be removed, send an e-mail to [dhccinfo@dca.ca.gov](mailto:dhccinfo@dca.ca.gov) and include your full legal name, phone number, all dental hygiene license numbers, and a statement that you want your AOR removed from the website.

### **What does the law require that I do if I know or suspect that a child who has come to the office has been abused?**

Penal Code section 11166 requires any health practitioner, which includes dental auxiliaries, who has knowledge of or observes a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse must make an initial report by phone to the reporting agency immediately or as soon as is practicably possible. The mandated reporter must prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written follow-up report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. They may include with the report any nonprivileged documentary evidence they possess relating to the incident.

Mandated reporting may be made to any police or sheriff's department (not including a school district police or security department), county probation department if designated by the county to receive mandated reports, or the county welfare department.





## DHCC Website Frequently Asked Questions

### Where can I verify a dental hygienist's license?

The Dental Hygiene Committee of California's (DHCC's) website can be used to verify a license. Visit the DHCC's website, [www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov), and click on "License Verification." Search by name, license number, city, or county. You can also verify a dental hygienist's license number through the new BreEZe system; the link to BreEZe can be found on the DHCC home page.

The following are examples regarding the status of a dental hygienist's license:

- **Renewed/Current**—The license is current and valid until the expiration date.
- **Delinquent**—A license is delinquent if not renewed by its expiration date. Until renewed, it is illegal for the licensee to practice. A license may also reflect a delinquent status if the renewal application is incomplete for reasons such as deficient continuing education hours or if the Live Scan fingerprint requirement has not been met.
- **Inactive**—An inactive license is current, but the licensee is not allowed to practice until the license is returned to "active" status.
- **Canceled**—A license is canceled if not renewed within five years following its expiration date. A licensee is not allowed to practice with a canceled license.

### Where can I make a complaint against a hygienist?

- A complaint can be submitted to the DHCC if you have concerns about a dental hygienist. The *Consumer Complaint Form* can be downloaded from the DHCC website, [www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov). Click on the "Consumers" tab and then "Complaint Information."
- You can also call the DHCC to have the complaint form to be mailed to you; our toll-free number is (866) 810-9899. In addition, starting in early 2016, you can use the BreEZe system to file a complaint; click on the BreEZe button on the DHCC home page, then click on "File a Complaint."

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

**How to Request a Replacement License**

A duplicate pocket identification (ID) card or duplicate wall certificate costs \$25 each (\$50 if a licensee requests both). Your request must be submitted in writing on the appropriate form with the correct fees. You must also submit your existing pocket ID card or wall certificate that you are replacing, as appropriate, or provide a statement signed under penalty of perjury that the license or certificate has been lost, stolen, or misplaced. The *Request for Duplicate/Replacement License* form can be found at [www.dhcc.ca.gov/formspubs/app\\_lic\\_replace.pdf](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov/formspubs/app_lic_replace.pdf).

A request for a duplicate license or wall certificate can also be requested and paid for with a credit card through the BreZE online system; the link can be found on the DHCC website, [www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov), or click on [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov).

**May a registered dental hygienist use lasers?**

BPC section 1914 states: A registered dental hygienist may use any material or device approved for use in the performance of a service or procedure within his or her scope of practice under the appropriate level of supervision, if he or she has the appropriate education and training required to use the material or device.

No auxiliary may provide any service, including the use of a laser, if doing so would be beyond the scope of their practice.

**What are the requirements for supervision of a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice (RDHAP)?**

RDHAPs are independent practitioners and do not require supervision in work settings as specified in BPC section 1926. An RDHAP may practice pursuant to BPC sections 1907(a), 1908(a), and 1910(a) and (b) in the capacity as specified in BPC section 1925.

# Legislative Update

- **Assembly Bill 502** authorizes the creation of and establishes rules of governance for a RDHAP corporation.
- **Senate Bill 800** removes limiting dates from the contracting provisions, thereby authorizing the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) to contract with the Dental Board of California indefinitely to carry out any of specified provisions relating to the regulation of dental hygienists, including performing investigations of applicants and licensees. The bill additionally limits the fee for each curriculum review, feasibility study review, and site evaluation for educational programs for dental hygienists who are not accredited by a DHCC-approved agency. The fee shall not exceed \$2,100.

**DHCC WEBSITE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)****Where can I get information on DHCC committee meetings?**

The schedule of DHCC public meetings is available on our website at [www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov).

Under “Quick Hits” on the DHCC home page, click on “Committee Meetings.” The DHCC calendar lists meeting dates and locations. Also available are prior meeting agendas, materials, and minutes.

**What are the laws and regulations that govern registered dental hygienists?**

Laws and regulations specifically define the duties each category of dental auxiliary is allowed to perform, the level of dentist supervision required, and the settings in which the duties may be performed. It is a criminal offense to perform illegal functions, as well as grounds for license discipline of both the person performing the illegal function and any person who aids such illegal activity.

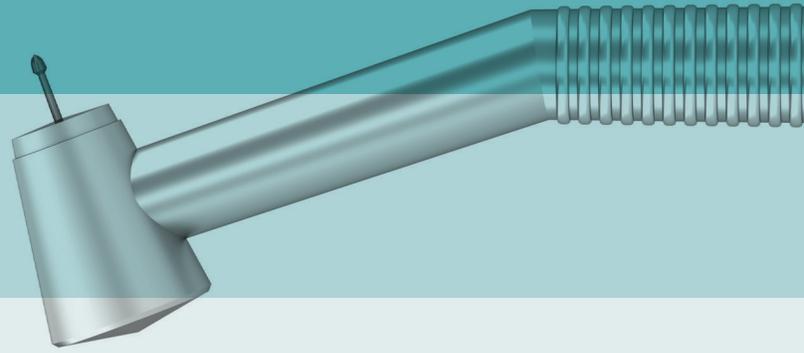
The duties and responsibilities of registered dental hygienists, RDHAPs, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions are located in Business and Professions Code sections 1900 through 1966.6.

You may download a publication of our laws and regulations at our website [www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov) by clicking on “Laws and Regulations” under “Quick Hits.”

**Citations Issued** OCTOBER 2014–NOVEMBER 2015

Issued	BPC* Section	Description	Fee Range
47	1934	Failure to notify Committee of address change within 30 days	\$50–\$100
38	1950(a)	Conviction of a crime	\$250–\$750
5	1960(f)	Advertising to deceive or mislead public	\$200–\$1,000
2	1950.5	Unprofessional conduct	\$100–\$1,500

\*Business and Professions Code



## Administrative Actions

SEPTEMBER 2014–NOVEMBER 2015

### **TAM, Agnes**

(RDH 28726)

*San Francisco, CA*

License granted; revoked, stayed with 3 years probation with terms and conditions

September 5, 2014

### **TOFTE, Jeremy**

(RDH 28793)

*Rancho Cucamonga, CA*

Probationary license issued with 3 years probation with terms and conditions

December 12, 2014

### **PETERSON, Belle**

(RDH 17235)

*Martinez, CA*

License surrendered

February 5, 2015

### **TAYLOR, Lori**

(RDH 14866)

*Los Gatos, CA*

License surrendered

February 25, 2015

### **DOUGLAS, Wendy**

(RDH 20499)

*San Diego, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions

February 26, 2015

### **SMITH, Sara**

(RDH 22000)

*Oxnard, CA*

License reinstated; revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions

March 27, 2015

### **BREALEY, Phyllis**

(RDH 19270)

*Los Angeles, CA*

License revoked

April 15, 2015

### **MENDOZA, Alexis**

(RDH 21182)

*Upland, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions

May 1, 2015

### **GERARDO, Roxanne**

(RDH 29018)

*Redwood City, CA*

Probationary license issued with 3 years probation with terms and conditions

May 27, 2015

### **BACA, Monica**

(RDH 7030)

*Santa Rosa, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions

June 4, 2015

### **HANSEN-COHEN, Cara**

(RDH 12022)

*Pebble Beach, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions

June 5, 2015

### **LANG, Jenny**

(RDH 19326)

*Calabasas, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years probation with terms and conditions

June 5, 2015

### **THOMPSON, Tammy**

(RDH 19935)

*Riverside, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions

June 5, 2015

### **MACAYA, Sheri**

(RDH 7104)

*Santa Cruz, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions

June 5, 2015

### **SUMMERS, Sherrie**

(RDH 2803)

*San Juan Capistrano, CA*

License surrendered

July 19, 2015

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)**

**CATALLO, Crystal**

(RDH 29325)

*Moreno Valley, CA*

Probationary license issued with 3 years probation with terms and conditions  
July 24, 2015

**SPEERS, Tammy**

(RDH 19747)

*Redding, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 5 years probation with terms and conditions  
July 28, 2015

**LUCAS, Jami**

(RDH 19534)

*Lemoore, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions  
July 28, 2015

**JOHNSON, David**

(RDH 27418)

*Victorville, CA*

License revoked  
September 27, 2015

**SISEMORE, Bethany**

(RDH 18609)

*Rocklin, CA*

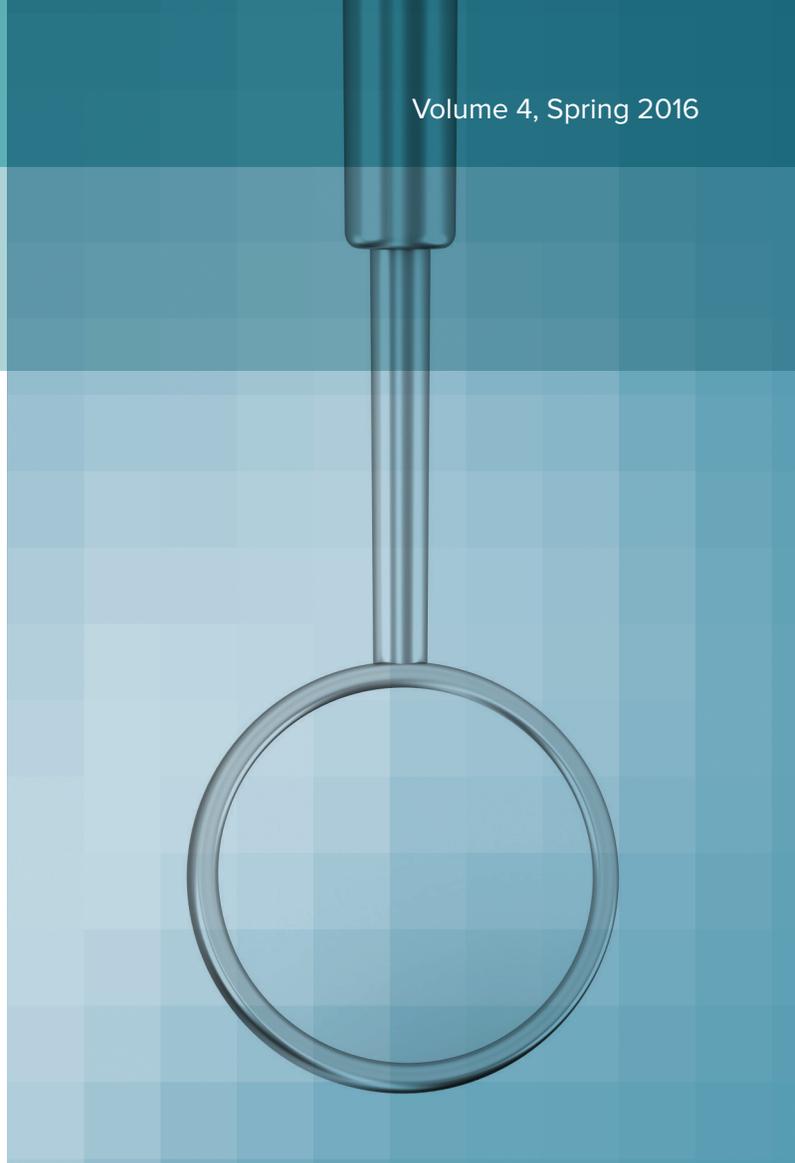
License revoked  
October 2, 2015

**HELM, Nicola**

(HAP 304, RDH 9205)

*Malibu, CA*

Revoked, stayed, placed on 3 years probation with terms and conditions  
October 8, 2015



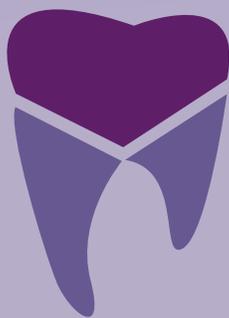
## License Renewal Tips

It is illegal to practice dental hygiene with an expired license, so be sure to complete your license renewal prior to its expiration. Follow these tips to ensure your renewal process goes smoothly and efficiently:

- 1) Be aware of exactly when your license expires so you can renew well before its expiration date and can continue to practice without interruption. All licenses, except the issuance of an initial license, are renewed on a biennial (every two years) cycle and expire on the last day of the licensee's birth month in an odd- or even-numbered year, depending on when you were born. For example, if you were born on January 1, 1986, your license will expire on January 31 of every even-numbered year after your first license renewal. The same applies to the licensees born in odd-numbered years. The process was set up this way to make it easier for licensees to remember their license expiration date.
- 2) If you are renewing for the first time after the initial issuance of your license, you will need to renew your license anywhere from three to 23 months after your license is issued. This is due to the explanation of the two-year renewal cycle as stated above and that the license can be valid for no longer than 24 months. Licensees renewing their license for the first time are exempt from the continuing education (CE) requirements, but after the first renewal is complete, they begin the two-year biennial renewal cycle and will need to complete the appropriate amount of CE to renew the license every two years.
- 3) License renewals can now be completed through the new online BreEZe computer system.

It is available through the Dental Hygiene Committee of California's (DHCC's) website at [www.dhcc.ca.gov](http://www.dhcc.ca.gov) or through the BreEZe website at [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov). Renewing your license through BreEZe allows you to answer all of the required renewal and survey questions online and pay the renewal fee with a credit card in real time, with minimal delays in processing. Once completed, a new pocket license will be sent within two weeks to your address of record on file with the DHCC.

- 4) Paper license renewals will still be sent to the licensee's address of record on file with the DHCC approximately 60 days in advance of the license's expiration date to allow for adequate processing time. It will be the licensee's choice to renew via paper or online, but not by both methods, as this may cause complications and possible delays in the license renewal process.
- 5) Follow the renewal instructions enclosed with the license renewal and workforce survey, and answer all of the required applicable questions on the form (boxes A, B, E, H, I) and survey. Include a check or money order with your renewal to the DHCC for the license renewal payment, or use a credit card if completing online, in the appropriate amount.
- 6) If you have questions about your license renewal, be aware that the DHCC is busiest the first and last weeks of each month, addressing the influx of license renewal issues and questions from licensees.



# DHCC

Dental Hygiene Committee  
of California

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