MEMORANDUM

DATE          October 26, 2017
TO             Dental Hygiene Educational Program Directors
FROM           Anthony Lum, Interim Executive Officer
SUBJECT       Remedial Education Requirements, Pursuant to Title 16, Section 1108 of the California Code of Regulations

Hello Dental Hygiene Educational Program Directors:

The Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) has received several inquiries regarding remediation of students that have failed either the Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS) or Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) clinical examinations. In response to those inquiries, the DHCC is providing this correspondence to apprise Dental Hygiene Educational Program Directors of the statutory and regulatory requirements concerning remedial education.

Business and Professions Code section 1917.3 specifies that "an examinee for a registered dental hygienist license who either fails to pass the clinical examination required by Section 1917 after three attempts or fails to pass the clinical examination as a result of a single incidence of imposing gross trauma on a patient shall not be eligible for further reexamination until the examinee has successfully completed remedial education at an approved dental hygiene program or a comparable organization approved by the Committee."

Since the inception of the Educational Regulations in 2016, there have not been any courses approved by the DHCC for remedial education. Therefore, to ensure program compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, the DHCC encourages all dental hygiene educational programs to consider creating a remedial education course in the event of student failures on examinations, or gross trauma to a patient. Without a remedial education course in place, examinees are ineligible for reexamination, and thus will not be able to obtain licensure as a registered dental hygienist.

Title 16, Section 1108 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) sets forth the requirements for remedial education as follows:

(a) Approval of Remedial Education Course.
The Committee shall approve only those educational courses for remedial education pursuant to section 1917.3 of the Code that continuously meet all course requirements. Each approved course shall be subject to review by the Committee at any time. Continuation of approval will be contingent upon compliance with these requirements.
(1) A remedial course shall offer instruction in the following skills:
(A) Dental hygiene assessment and development, planning and implementation of a dental hygiene care plan;
(B) Exploration and detection of calculus, and periodontal probing;
(C) Hand and sonic or ultrasonic instrumentation to remove plaque biofilm and calculus;
(D) Administration of local anesthesia, nitrous oxide oxygen analgesia and performance of soft tissue curettage;
(E) Appropriate use of materials and devices used in dental hygiene practice; and
(F) Process of developing, reviewing and documenting outcomes of treatment and interventions provided to patients.
(G) All laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of dental hygiene.

(2) An applicant course provider shall submit an "Application for Approval of a Course in Remedial Education," DHCC RE-01(05/2015) hereby incorporated by reference, accompanied by the appropriate fee, for approval of a new course and shall receive approval prior to operation.

(3) All courses shall be at the postsecondary educational level in an approved dental hygiene educational program.

(4) Each approved course shall consist of a combination of didactic, laboratory, and clinical instruction and provide a minimum of 50 hours of remedial education.


(b) Requirements for Approval of Course in Remedial Education.
(1) Administration. In order to be approved, each course shall provide the resources necessary to accomplish education as specified in this section. Course providers shall be responsible for informing the Committee of any changes to the course content, physical facilities, and faculty, within 10 days of such changes. In order to be eligible for admission to the course, the course provider shall require course applicants to:
(A) Provide evidence of failure to pass a clinical examination as set forth in section 1917.3 of the Code or provide a probationary order ordering the student to attend a remedial education course offered under this section;
(B) Provide evidence of current certification in Basic Life Support for health care providers as required by section 1016(b)(1)(C) of Article 4 of Chapter 1 of Division 10 of title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR); and
(C) Provide evidence of graduation from an educational program for dental hygienists approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or an equivalent accrediting body approved by the Committee.
(2) Faculty. Pre-clinical and clinical faculty, including course director and supervising dentist(s) shall:
(A) Possess a valid, active California license with no disciplinary actions at any time in any jurisdiction to practice dentistry or dental hygiene for at least two (2) years immediately preceding any provision of course instruction;
(B) Provide pre-clinical and clinical instruction only in procedures within the scope of practice of their respective licenses; and,
(C) Complete an educational methodology course within the last two (2) years; and
(D) Be calibrated in instruction and grading by the course provider.
(3) Facilities and Equipment. Pre-clinical and clinical instruction shall be held at a physical facility. Physical facilities and equipment shall be maintained and replaced in a manner designed to provide students with a course designed to meet the educational objectives set forth in this section. A physical facility shall have all of the following for use by the students:
(A) A lecture classroom, a patient clinic area, laboratory, and a radiology area.

(B) Access to equipment necessary to develop dental hygiene skills.

(C) Infection control equipment shall be provided as described in CCR, title 16, Division 10, Chapter 1, Article 1, section 1005.

(4) Health and Safety. A course provider shall comply with local, state, and federal health and safety laws and regulations.

(A) All students shall have access to the course's hazardous waste management plan for the disposal of needles, cartridges, medical waste and storage of oxygen and nitrous oxide tanks.

(B) All students shall have access to the course’s clinic and radiation hazardous communication plan.

(C) All students shall receive a copy of the course’s bloodborne and infectious diseases exposure control plan, which shall include emergency needlestick information. Faculty shall review with each student the information listed in (A) - (C).

(5) Remedial Education. Remedial education shall be given in a dental hygiene program approved by the Committee. Each course shall provide students the clinical facilities, equipment, and resources necessary to accomplish remedial education as provided in this section.

(6) Recordkeeping. A course provider shall possess and maintain the following for a period of not less than 5 years:

(A) Individual student records, including those necessary to establish satisfactory completion of the course.

(B) Copies of individual student remedial education plans.

(C) Copies of lab and clinical competency documents.

(D) A copy of faculty calibration plan, faculty credentials, licenses, and certifications including documented background in educational methodology within previous two years.

(E) Copies of student course evaluations and a summation thereof.

(F) Copies of curriculum, including course syllabi, exams, sample test questions and clinic rubrics.

(7) Curriculum and Learning Resources.

(A) The organization of the curriculum for remedial education shall be flexible, creating opportunities for adjustments in instruction in the skills listed in subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(B) Curriculum shall include methods to assess and evaluate students' skills in order to create an individualized plan for remedial education.

(C) A remedial education plan shall include learning outcomes, results of assessments of student skills to be remediated, methods of remediation, measures to evaluate didactic and clinical competency and criteria for completion.

(D) Curriculum shall prepare the student to assess, plan, implement and evaluate procedures as provided in subdivision (a)(1) of this section to perform with competence and judgment.

(E) Curriculum shall require adherence to infection control standards as provided in section 1005, title 16, CCR.

(F) Students shall be provided a course syllabus that contains:

(i) Course learning outcomes;

(ii) Titles of references used for course materials;

(iii) Content objectives; and

(iv) Grading criteria which includes competency evaluations and lab and clinic rubrics to include problem solving and critical thinking skills that reflect course learning outcomes.

(G) Successful completion shall require students to achieve competency at a minimum of 75% in each of the skills to be remediated.
(c) Certificate of Completion. A course provider shall issue and provide the Committee with an original "Certification of Completion of Remedial Education Course," DHCC RE-02 (12/2013), hereby incorporated by reference, only after a student has successfully completed the requirements of his or her remedial education plan.

(d) Appeals.
(1) The Committee may deny or withdraw its approval of a course. If the Committee denies or withdraws approval of a course, the reasons for withdrawal or denial will be provided in writing within ninety (90) days.
(2) Any course provider or applicant whose approval is denied or withdrawn shall be granted an informal conference before the Executive Officer or his or her designee prior to the effective date of such action. The applicant or course provider shall be given at least ten days' notice of the time and place of such informal conference and the specific grounds for the proposed action.
(3) The applicant or course provider may contest the denial or withdrawal of approval by either:
(A) Appearing at the informal conference. The Executive Officer shall notify the course provider of the final decision of the Executive Officer within ten days of the informal conference. Based on the outcome of the informal conference, the course provider may then request a hearing to contest the Executive Officer's final decision. A course provider shall request a hearing by written notice to the Committee within 30 calendar days of the postmark date of the letter of the Executive Officer's final decision after informal conference. Hearings shall be held pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Or;
(B) Notifying the Committee in writing the course provider's election to forego the informal conference and to proceed with a hearing pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Such notification shall be made to the Committee before the date of the informal conference.

Attached is the Application for Approval of Course in Remedial Education for those programs interested in the creation of a remedial education course. The cost to process the course application is $300.

The highest priority of the DHCC is consumer protection. To ensure this and the public's right to receive quality dental hygiene care, the DHCC has a responsibility to make sure all dental hygiene programs meet the same standards and that all graduates have equivalent educational experiences.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 916-576-5004.

Sincerely,

Anthony Lum
Interim Executive Officer
Dental Hygiene Committee of California

Cc: Noel Kelsch, RDHAP, MS, DHCC President