



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*101 Israel Road S.E • Olympia, Washington 98501*

*TDD Relay: 711*

### **Dental Quality Assurance Commission 2024-2025 Annual Report**

#### **LEGISLATION**

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) evaluated legislative bills in 2025, including:

- HB 1680 – Improving Access to Patient Care by Increasing Preventive Dental Care
- SSB 5254 – Strengthening Patients’ Rights Regarding their Health Care Information
- SSB 5236 – Emission of Greenhouse Gasses used for Anesthetic Purposes
- ESSHB 1686 – Healthcare Entity Registry

#### **RULEMAKING**

Dental Assistant Registration – WAC 246-817-190

- The commission is adopting amendments to include a minimum age requirement for dental assistant registration.

Licensure Requirements for Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDAs) – WAC 246-817-195

- The commission is proposing amendments to allow the amalgam clinical patient requirement to be optional.

Dental Licensure Without Examination – Eligibility and Application Requirements – WAC 246-817-135; Graduates of Nonaccredited Schools – WAC 246-817-160

- The commission is proposing amendments to remove requirements pertaining to federal or state tax numbers when applying for licensure without an examination and to clarify clinical and didactic education and training requirements for foreign-trained dentists and graduates of nonaccredited schools or programs.

Continuing Education for Dentists Administering Sedation – WAC 246-817-773

- The commission is proposing amendments to ensure clear continuing education (CE) requirements.

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact – chapter 246-817 WAC

- The commission and the Department of Health are proposing adding new sections to chapter 246-817 WAC to implement provisions of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1576 (chapter 297, Laws of 2023), which creates a new interstate compact for dentists and gives member states the discretion to charge a fee for granting compact privileges.

### **ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

The Dental Collaboration Committee continues to meet to collaborate on dental related topics affecting dentistry, dental hygiene, and denturists. The Dental Collaboration Committee is made up of members from the Dental Commission, Dental Hygiene Examining Committee, and the Board of Denturists. The committee held rules workshops for the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact and chapter 246-814 WAC – Access to Dental Care for Children, to discuss including silver diamine fluoride use in school settings by dental hygienists and dental assistants and to discuss amending the requirement in WAC 246-814-030 to coordinate with established local oral health coalitions.

The Educational Outreach Committee continues to meet to recommend creative methods to communicate with practitioners and other interested parties. The committee publishes a newsletter with three publications per year.

The Jurisprudence Examination Committee continues to meet to develop additional questions to be used in future versions of the jurisprudence examination.

The Dental Anesthesia Committee continues to meet and has held rules workshops to clarify CE requirements for dentists administering sedation. Additional topics discussed at committee meetings include questions related to sedation and on-site inspections.

The Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) Committee met in 2024-2025 to review EFDA programs at Seattle Central College and Columbia Basin College. The committee held a rules workshop to discuss amending the amalgam clinical patient requirement for EFDA training requirements and the committee approved Missouri for EFDA substantial equivalency.

The Continuing Competency Committee continues to meet to discuss scope of practice for aesthetic procedures and has held rules workshops to discuss licensure without examination requirements and licensure requirements for graduates from nonaccredited schools.

The Dental Therapy Committee continues to hold rules workshops to collaboratively work on establishing rules for dental therapists.

The Independent Commission Committee continues to meet to discuss the structure and authority of the Washington Dental Commission.

The Infection Control Committee and Dental Inclusion Committee will meet as needed.

Dental commissioners continue to participate in several regional and national dental organizations.

- Dr. Nisha Sharoff is the representative for CDCA/WREB/CITA.
- Mac Rainey, Public Member, is the representative for American Association of Dental Boards (AADB).
- Dr. Sarah Khan is the representative for Central Regional Dental Testing Services (CRDTS).

## **OTHER**

A final fund balance for June 30, 2025, is not yet available. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report publishes the state annual fund balances in late October.

As of July 14, 2025, there are 94 active pediatric sedation endorsements.

As of July 15, 2023, there are\*:

- 5,761 active dentists
- 77 retired active status dentists
- 278 active moderate sedation permits
- 299 active moderate sedation with parenteral agent permits
- 208 active general anesthesia permits
- 12 active faculty limited licensed dentists
- 54 active resident limited licensed dentists
- 13,077 active registered dental assistants
- 308 active EFDAsc
- 200 active dental anesthesia assistants

\*Updated license counts are not currently available as the Department of Health transitions to the Healthcare Enforcement and Licensing Management System (HELMS).

Final disciplinary statistics for fiscal year 2021-2023 were published in the Uniform Disciplinary Act report. Dentists, EFDAs, dental assistants, and dental anesthesia assistants are combined.

- Complaints received: 1974
- Investigations completed: 682

Interested Parties Email Notification System: Every dentist and dental professional in the state is encouraged to keep up to date with commission activities by signing up for the dental interested parties list at [Washington State Department of Health \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com).

Continued Recruitment for Commission Positions: Dentists interested in appointments to the Dental Quality Assurance Commission may obtain an application online or directly from the Office of the Governor. Positions are open for consideration each year prior to June 30 or until they are filled. [Apply to Serve | Governor Bob Ferguson](#)