

GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
Infection Control Committee Conference Call
2 Peachtree St., N.W. 6th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
March 31, 2023
2:00 p.m.

The following Committee members were present:

Dr. David Reznik, Chair
Dr. JC Shirley
Dr. Debra Wilson

Staff present:

Eric Lacefield, Executive Director
Max Changus, Senior Asst Attorney General
Stacy Altman, Chief Investigator
Clint Joiner, Attorney
Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst I

Visitors:

Shawanna Riggins

Open Session

Dr. Reznik established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Introduction of Visitors

Mr. Lacefield asked the visitors on the call to send an email via the “Contact Us” portal on the website if he/she would like his/her name reflected as being in attendance in the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the January 27, 2023, Conference Call minutes. Dr. Shirley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discussion Items

Rule 150-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct Defined: Dr. Reznik discussed the proposed language to section (5) of this rule and read the following:

5. Sterilization Records. All sterilization records must be maintained for a period of not less than three (3) years. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, the following: type of sterilizer and cycle used; the load identification number; the load contents; the exposure parameters (e.g., time and temperature); the operator’s name; and the results of mechanical, chemical, and biological monitoring.

Dr. Reznik stated that there were individuals who thought the language was too onerous. He explained that the addition of “...Such records shall include, but not be limited to, the following: type of sterilizer and cycle used; the load identification number; the load contents; the exposure parameters (e.g., time and temperature); the operator’s name; and the results of mechanical, chemical, and biological monitoring.” is the portion that seems to be the issue.

Dr. Reznik asked if there were any comments. Dr. Shirley responded by stating that the language comes directly from the CDC guidelines. Dr. Reznik commented that the rule already contains language regarding following CDC guidelines. Discussion was held regarding the requirement in section (5) being onerous for some facilities. Dr. Reznik stated that since this language comes directly from the CDC

guidelines, which dentists are already set to follow, he was good with amending the language to read as follows:

5. Sterilization Records. All sterilization records must be maintained for a period of not less than three (3) years.

The Committee agreed with Dr. Reznik on the language. Mr. Changus commented that the aspect of the three (3) year record keeping was appropriate. He added that the Board was interested in more than minimum, but rather best practices. He continued by stating that he thought it would be best to provide a policy statement as a way to address the concern and to satisfy what the Committee identifies.

Mr. Joiner stated that heightened requirements for specific licensees can be terms of a consent order. Dr. Reznik inquired as to how that process would work. Mr. Joiner responded by stating that when a case comes to the Investigative Committee ("IC"), that will be the requirements IC recommends the Attorney General put in the consent order. Mr. Changus commented that if IC has a case, it can lay out what requirements are needed in order to resolve that particular type of case.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to refer the Committee's recommendation regarding amendments to Rule 150-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct Defined to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Shirley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Discussion was held regarding the status of the Committee's recommendation that two hours of the existing continuing education requirement for dentists and dental hygienists involve dental unit waterlines. Mr. Changus stated that the Board voted to post the amendments and they were sent to his office to review for statutory authority. He further stated that he would send a response back to the Board and the notice regarding a public hearing will be posted.

Dr. Shirley inquired as to how many investigative cases relate to infection control and if the Committee could receive a report on such. He stated that board members do not know the things being investigated. He explained that he understood the reasons not seeing the specifics. Mr. Lacefield responded by stating that statistics concerning any cases related to infection control could be provided to the Committee going forward.

Mr. Altman commented that most complaints related to infection control concern unsanitary conditions, dirty offices, blood spatter, etc. He stated that the area of infection control is the cleanliness of the facility. He further stated that the board office receives an average of 5 to 15 complaints concerning infection control a year.

Dr. Shirley commented that the information provided by Mr. Altman was helpful. He stated that infection control is one area, but there are other areas that the Board as a whole should be looking at. He inquired if that had ever been done before. Mr. Joiner responded by stating that at every meeting a spreadsheet containing the recommendations from IC is provided to the Board. He stated that the spreadsheet also describes the cases reviewed by IC. Dr. Shirley stated that he reviews the report that is posted and inquired as to how the Board could obtain a yearly report of what has been done case wise. Dr. Reznik commented by stating that he did not feel comfortable sharing information about cases IC reviews and suggested Dr. Shirley bring this matter up with Dr. Stiehl, who is chair of IC.

Dr. Shirley inquired if any board member could attend any other committee meeting. Mr. Lacefield responded by stating that if Dr. Shirley was asking about IC, IC is set up that way so that cases are anonymous when presented to the full Board.

Mr. Changus explained that IC is set up in a way so that complaints are anonymous when cases go before the full Board. He stated that, as far as going to other committee meetings, Dr. Shirley could attend those. He continued by stating that if Dr. Shirley had a particular interest regarding being on IC, he should speak to Dr. Maron.

Dr. Shirley stated that the reason IC is not made up of the full Board is because of decisions that have to be made at the full Board level. He further stated that there is nothing that comes to the full Board where it has to make a decision on an IC case. Mr. Changus responded by stating that the recommendations from IC are on the spreadsheet and the recommendations are voted on by the full Board. He stated that, by practice, that is done quickly. He added that if there is a recommendation for a consent order, that case may be mentioned and the full Board votes on it.

Dr. Reznik stated that this particular discussion does not fall under the Infection Control Committee. He further stated to Dr. Shirley that his questions concerning IC matters should be directed at Dr. Maron.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst I
Minutes edited by Eric R. Lacefield, Executive Director