

**HAWAII STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
GUIDELINES: CERTIFICATION FOR ADMINISTRATION OF INTRA-ORAL BLOCK ANESTHESIA  
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Approved by the Board as Guidance: January 22, 2024**

**NOTE:** Individuals should first apply and be approved for their **general dental hygiene license** in Hawaii before applying for Certification for Administration of Intra-Oral Block Anesthesia.

If you are approved for your general dental hygiene license and do not wish to apply for the additional intra-oral block Certification, you may only administer intra-oral infiltration anesthesia pursuant to HAR §16-79-76(b).

**I. Dental Anesthesia Injection Requirements\***

An applicant for certification to administer intra-oral block anesthesia shall show proof that the applicant successfully completed a course of study that shall include the following categories of intra-oral infiltration local anesthesia and intra-oral block anesthesia. Refer to the table below.

Categories of Intra-Oral Infiltration Local Anesthesia & Intra-Oral Block Anesthesia Injections	Total Number of Injections Completed *	Completed (Yes/No)	Date Requirement Completed
(1) Maxillary mandibular infiltration anesthesia			
(2) Long buccal nerve block anesthesia			
(3) Mental nerve block			
(4) Inferior alveolar/lingual nerve block (Minimum 10)			
(5) Incisive nerve block			
(6) Posterior superior alveolar nerve block (Minimum 5)			
(7) Middle superior alveolar nerve block			
(8) Anterior superior alveolar nerve block			
(9) Nasopalatine (incisive canal) nerve block			
(10) Greater (anterior) palatine nerve block			

*\*Minimum of 50 successful injections required.*

## **II. Dental Anesthesia Course of Study Requirements**

A course of study shall also include didactic studies and clinical experience, and for intra-oral block anesthesia categories as pertinent to the required dental anesthesia injections, at least thirty-nine hours, and a minimum of fifty successful injections of which ten shall be “inferior alveolar/lingual nerve” intra-oral block and five in “posterior superior alveolar nerve” intra-oral block.

The curriculum of the course of study shall include as follows:

- (1) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification;
- (2) Medical history evaluation procedures;
- (3) Physical evaluation procedures;
- (4) Anatomy of head, neck, and oral cavity as it relates to administering local anesthetic agents;
- (5) Pharmacology of local anesthetics and vasoconstrictors;
- (6) Indications and contraindications for administration of local anesthetics;
- (7) Prevention, diagnosis, and management of medical emergency;
- (8) Recognition and management of post-injection complications and management of reactions to injections;
- (9) Medical and legal management complications;
- (10) Selection and preparation of the armamentaria and recordkeeping for administering various local anesthetics;
- (11) Methods of administering local anesthetics with emphasis on technique, which includes aspiration and slow injection, in addition to minimum effective dosage; and
- (12) Proper infection control techniques with regard to local anesthesia and the proper disposal of sharps.

As part of the course of study, the applicant or licensed dental hygienist shall be required to pass an examination to determine if the applicant or licensed dental hygienist has acquired the necessary knowledge and clinical proficiency to administer intra-oral block anesthesia.

## **III. Documentation for Certification to Administer Intra-oral Block Anesthesia**

A licensed dental hygienist may apply to the board for certification to administer intra-oral block anesthesia by providing to the board documentation which shall include:

- (1) A certificate of completion from a CODA accredited dental hygiene school or by a certification program approved by the board; and
- (2) Program documentation or transcript listing the intra-oral block anesthesia categories, the course content, and number of injections that are consistent with section 447-3.5, HRS.

**Note:** An applicant can fulfill the minimum dental anesthesia injection requirements by submitting more than one certificate from a CODA accredited hygiene school or certification program approved by the board.

#### **IV. Hawaii Statutory References**

- Hawaii Revised Statutes §447-3.5
- Hawaii Administrative Rules §16-79-76

**Disclaimer:** This document offers general guidance on intra-oral block anesthesia certification requirements. For specific statutory references, consult Hawaii Revised Statutes §447-3.5 and Hawaii Administrative Rules §16-79-76.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. I graduated from a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program, but the program did not offer certification/training in intra-oral block and/or intra-oral infiltration anesthesia. How do I apply for the Certification to Administer Intra-Oral Block Anesthesia?

To meet Hawaii's statutory requirements, you should identify a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program that meets the requirements for Certification as outlined in HRS §447-3.5 and contact the Board for approval. Upon Board approval and subsequent completion of the course, you can submit your application for Certification.

2. I graduated from a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program, but my program was "short" one or more of the injection requirements of HRS §447-3.5 (e.g. short 1 of the 10 IA/IL injections). How do I remediate?

To remediate, you should identify a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program that, in the course of study, you will be able to "make-up" the injections you are short in. You should contact the Board for approval of the course before enrolling.

3. Can I remediate injection requirements I am "short" by submitting a letter from my employer that I perform injections as part of my dental hygiene work?

No. If you need to remediate injection requirements, you must enroll in a formal course approved by the Board.