

STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY GUIDANCE RELATED TO ACLS AND PALS CERTIFICATION

Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) is an advanced, hands-on course that teaches the critical skills needed to respond to respiratory failure, airway obstruction, cardiac problems and anaphylaxis in adults. ACLS certification courses build on the foundation of Basic Lifesaving Skills (BLS), emphasizing the importance of preventing cardiac arrest, early and continuous high-quality CPR, and high-performing resuscitation teams. ACLS for pediatric patients is called Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). Because cardiac arrest, stroke and other emergencies can happen in the dental chair, ACLS and PALS training and certification can be particularly relevant to the practice of dentistry.

As a condition of renewal, dentists licensed under the State Board of Dentistry who hold an Anesthesia Unrestricted or Restricted I permit to administer general anesthesia, deep sedation and/or conscious sedation are required to maintain current ACLS and PALS certification in addition to the basic CPR requirement. Anesthesia Unrestricted or Restricted I permit holders must establish, at the time of renewal, current ACLS and PALS certification.

With the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, securing the required ACLS and PALS in-person recertification training required for Anesthesia Unrestricted Permit or Restricted I Permit may become difficult. To alleviate these challenges, the Department proposes the following guidance be issued:

For the current renewal period, dentists licensed under the State Board of Dentistry who are unable to attend a live, in-person ACLS and/or PALS recertification program may attend an online ACLS and/or PALS recertification program to renew their Anesthesia Unrestricted Permit or their Restricted I Permit to administer general anesthesia, deep sedation and/or conscious sedation. However, due to nature of the critical skills taught in live, in-person ACLS and PALS recertification programs, those Anesthesia Unrestricted and Restricted I Permit holders who do so must obtain a live, in-person ACLS and PALS recertification within 90 days from the date the emergency declaration is lifted.