September in Maine is a special time to reflect and transition from the long, warm days of summer to the short, cool days of fall. For many, it is also a time of returning to daily routines and placing reminders on our personal and professional schedules. The list of reminders can be long, including those associated with your license and/or permit with the Maine Board of Dental Practice. I thought now is a good opportunity to remind those who practice in a dentally-related field of certain regulations governing dental professionals. Below are some regulatory highlights:

**Online renewal process:** Individuals who hold either a license and/or a sedation permit with an expiration date of December 31, 2019, can renew online effective November 1, 2019. An email notification will be sent to licensees on November 1st reminding licensees to renew online. Once the online renewal process is complete, the license will be emailed to your email address on file with the Board. **FMI:** [Online Renewal Services](#)

**Dental radiography licensure:** Passing a dental radiography examination or completing a dental radiography course does not authorize an individual to take dental x-rays. An individual must first obtain a license from the Board prior to practicing dental radiography, which is defined as the use of ionizing radiation on the maxilla, mandible and adjacent structures on human beings for diagnostic purposes. Practicing without a license may result in the Board taking disciplinary action taken against the applicant and/or the supervisor. **FMI:** [Dental Radiography Application](#)

**10 Day Reporting:** Applicants and licensees are required to report in writing to the Board within 10 days the following: 1. Change of name or address; 2. Criminal conviction; 3. Disciplinary action taken in this state or any other jurisdiction against any occupational or professional license; and 4. Material change in the conditions or qualifications set forth in the original application for licensure submitted to the Board. **FMI:** [Maine Dental Practice Act - See 32 M.R.S. Sec. 18352](#)

**Life support certification:** Licensees must maintain valid, current life support certification while practicing. The certification requirements are identified for initial licensure as well as the renewal of licensure. Online life support certification courses are not accepted unless verification of hands-on training with the instructor is documented. Additionally, there are specific life support certifications required in the delivery of sedation and general anesthesia. **FMI:** [Board Rules Chapter 13 and 14](#)
Child mandated reporting training: Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services requires that dental assistants, dental hygienists and dentists obtain mandated reporting training. Mandated training is not a requirement for renewal of licensure for dental hygienists or dentists. However, dental hygienists and dentists may claim up to one hour of continuing education credit if the training is completed within a renewal cycle. FMI: DHHS Mandated Child Abuse Training

Continuing education: The “new” continuing education rule went into effect November 12, 2018. There were significant changes to simplify the requirements, in part, by eliminating “categories” of continuing education and allowing licensees to complete online trainings so long as the training included an exit examination. A transition chart was developed so licensees could see the regulatory changes from the former rule to the new rule. FMI: See Important Notices - CE Transition Chart

Opioid prescribing requirements: There are many regulations guiding the prescribing of opioid medication, including a requirement that dentists who prescribe opioid medication must complete 3 hours of training as a condition for license renewal. Other regulations governing the prescribing of opioid medication include limitations on prescribing, electronic prescribing, adopting an opioid medication policy to include procedures and practices related to risk assessment, informed consent and counseling on the risk of opioid use, as well as complying with the Prescription Monitoring Program regulations. FMI: Maine Dental Practice Act - 32 M.R.S. Sec. 18308 and DHHS - Prescription Monitoring Program

Other Important Notices:

➢ Agency rulemaking notices. It is anticipated that the Board will be conducting public hearings to propose/adopt changes to existing rules. Please contact the Board if you wish to be placed on an interested parties list to receive notification of Board’s meetings/hearings. Board contact information: Contact Board Staff

➢ Get involved. As noted in my earlier message, the Board encourages your attendance and feedback at its meetings, particularly during its rulemaking proceedings. You can access the Board’s agendas/minutes online at: Dental Board Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Thank you and Happy Fall!