**02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**

**313 BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

**Chapter 16: RULES FOR INDEPENDENT PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENISTS TO PROCESS DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS**

**Summary**: This chapter implements Public Law 2015, Chapter 2 of the 127th Maine Legislature (First Regular Session)(LD 918), that required the Board to adopt rules that allow Independent Practice Dental Hygienists to Process Radiographs under practice standards developed by the Board.

**1. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE. A BOARD LICENSED INDEPENDENT PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENIST (IPDH) WHO EXPOSES AND PROCESSES DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

A. **Written Agreement**. Each IPDH exposing radiographs must have a written agreement with a licensed dentist that provides that the licensed dentist will be available to interpret all dental radiographs within 21 days from the date the radiograph is taken and that the dentist will sign a radiographic review and findings form.

B. **Referral**. The Board expects every IPDH exposing radiographs pursuant to this chapter to make reasonable efforts to ensure that all patient referrals are completed in a timely fashion. The IPDH shall ensure that each patient referral includes: a) the IPDH’s name; b) the patient’s name; c) radiographic finding and date of finding; d) to whom the patient was referred and date of referral; and e) follow up on referred care provided and date of follow up care.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Public Law 2015 ch. 2 of the 127th Legislature (First Regular Session (LD 918); 32 MRS §1073(2)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

 February 20, 2012 – filing 2012-38 (titled *Rules to Implement a 2-Year Pilot Project for Independent Practice Dental Hygienists to Process Dental Radiographs in Underserved Areas of the State*)

AMENDED:

 October 22, 2012 – filing 2012-291

 December 5, 2015 – filing 2015-238 (titled *Rules for Independent Practice Dental Hygienists to Process Dental Radiographs*)