

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

SECTION 1646-1646.9

1646. "General anesthesia," as used in this article, means a controlled state of depressed consciousness or unconsciousness, accompanied by partial or complete loss of protective reflexes, produced by a pharmacologic or nonpharmacologic method, or a combination thereof.

1646.1. (a) No dentist shall administer or order the administration of general anesthesia on an outpatient basis for dental patients unless the dentist either possesses a current license in good standing to practice dentistry in this state and holds a valid general anesthesia permit issued by the board or possesses a current permit under Section 1638 or 1640 and holds a valid general anesthesia permit issued by the board.

(b) No dentist shall order the administration of general anesthesia unless the dentist is physically within the dental office at the time of the administration.

(c) A general anesthesia permit shall expire on the date provided in Section 1715 that next occurs after its issuance, unless it is renewed as provided in this article.

(d) This article does not apply to the administration of local anesthesia or to conscious-patient sedation.

1646.2. (a) A dentist who desires to administer or order the administration of general anesthesia shall apply to the board on an application form prescribed by the board. The dentist must submit an application fee and produce evidence showing that he or she has successfully completed a minimum of one year of advanced training in anesthesiology and related academic subjects approved by the board, or equivalent training or experience approved by the board, beyond the undergraduate school level.

(b) The application for a permit shall include documentation that equipment and drugs required by the board are on the premises.

1646.3. Any dentist holding a permit shall maintain medical history, physical evaluation, and general anesthesia records as required by board regulations.

1646.4. (a) Prior to the issuance or renewal of a permit for the use of general anesthesia, the board may, at its discretion, require an onsite inspection and evaluation of the licentiate and the facility, equipment, personnel, and procedures utilized by the licentiate. The permit of any dentist who has failed an onsite inspection and evaluation shall be automatically suspended 30 days after the date on which the board notifies the dentist of the failure, unless within that time period the dentist has retaken and passed an onsite inspection and evaluation. Every dentist issued a permit under this article shall have an onsite inspection and evaluation at least once every five years. Refusal to submit to an inspection shall result in automatic denial or revocation of the permit.

(b) The board may contract with public or private organizations or individuals expert in dental outpatient general anesthesia to perform onsite inspections and evaluations. The board may not, however, delegate its authority to issue permits or to determine the persons or facilities to be inspected.

1646.5. A permittee shall be required to complete 24 hours of approved courses of study related to general anesthesia as a condition of renewal of a permit. Those courses of study shall be credited toward any continuing education required by the board pursuant to Section 1645.

1646.6. (a) The application fee for a permit or renewal under this article shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(b) The fee for an onsite inspection shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350).

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that fees established pursuant to this section be equivalent to

administration and enforcement costs incurred by the board in carrying out this article.

(d) At the discretion of the board, the fee for onsite inspection may be collected and retained by a contractor engaged pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1646.4.

1646.7. (a) A violation of this article constitutes unprofessional conduct and is grounds for the revocation or suspension of the dentist's permit, license, or both, or the dentist may be reprimanded or placed on probation.

(b) A violation of any provision of this article or Section 1682 is grounds for suspension or revocation of the physician's and surgeon's permit issued pursuant to this article by the Dental Board of California. The exclusive enforcement authority against a physician and surgeon by the Dental Board of California shall be to suspend or revoke the permit issued pursuant to this article. The Dental Board of California shall refer a violation of this article by a physician and surgeon to the Medical Board of California for its consideration as unprofessional conduct and further action, if deemed necessary by the Medical Board of California, pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000). A suspension or revocation of a physician and surgeon's permit by the Dental Board of California pursuant to this article shall not constitute a disciplinary proceeding or action for any purpose except to permit the initiation of an investigation or disciplinary action by the Medical Board of California as authorized by Section 2220.5.

(c) The proceedings under this section shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the Dental Board of California shall have all the powers granted therein.

1646.8. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize a dentist to administer or directly supervise the administration of general anesthesia for reasons other than dental treatment, as defined in Section 1625.

1646.9. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, Section 1646.1, a physician and surgeon licensed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) may administer general anesthesia in the office of a licensed dentist for dental patients, without regard to whether the dentist possesses a permit issued pursuant to this article, if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The physician and surgeon possesses a current license in good standing to practice medicine in this state.

(2) The physician and surgeon holds a valid general anesthesia permit issued by the Dental Board of California pursuant to subdivision (b).

(b) (1) A physician and surgeon who desires to administer general anesthesia as set forth in subdivision (a) shall apply to the Dental Board of California on an application form prescribed by the board and shall submit all of the following:

(A) The payment of an application fee prescribed by this article.

(B) Evidence satisfactory to the Medical Board of California showing that the applicant has successfully completed a postgraduate residency training program in anesthesiology that is recognized by the American Council on Graduate Medical Education, as set forth in Section 2079.

(C) Documentation demonstrating that all equipment and drugs required by the Dental Board of California are possessed by the applicant and shall be available for use in any dental office in which he or she administers general anesthesia.

(D) Information relative to the current membership of the applicant on hospital medical staffs.

(2) Prior to issuance or renewal of a permit pursuant to this section, the Dental Board of California may, at its discretion, require an onsite inspection and evaluation of the facility, equipment, personnel, including, but not limited to, the physician and surgeon, and procedures utilized. At least one of the persons evaluating the procedures utilized by the physician and surgeon shall be a licensed physician and surgeon expert in outpatient general anesthesia who has been authorized or retained under contract by the

Dental Board of California for this purpose.

(3) The permit of any physician and surgeon who has failed an onsite inspection and evaluation shall be automatically suspended 30 days after the date on which the board notifies the physician and surgeon of the failure unless within that time period the physician and surgeon has retaken and passed an onsite inspection and evaluation. Every physician and surgeon issued a permit under this article shall have an onsite inspection and evaluation at least once every six years. Refusal to submit to an inspection shall result in automatic denial or revocation of the permit.

(c) This section shall remain in effect until January 1, 2007, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which is enacted on or before January 1, 2007, deletes or extends that date.