



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Under Secretary for Health
Washington DC 20420

November 4, 2024

Puneet Kochhar, D.M.D.
President
Board of Dental Examiners
7 Eagle Square
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Dr. Kochhar:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is developing national standards of practice to uphold safe, high-quality care for the Nation's Veterans in VA's integrated health care system and to ensure that VA health care professionals can meet the needs of Veterans when practicing within the scope of their VA employment. We would like to provide you, as a state licensing board for Dental Hygienist the opportunity to comment directly to us on the proposed national standard of practice for Dental Hygienist (enclosed). We would appreciate your comments on the VA standard within 60 days of the receipt of this letter.

VA's proposed national standard of practice for Dental Hygienist does not vary from your state's licensure requirements. However, there may be variances with other states' requirements.

Please note, this standard is not final. The proposed national standard of practice for Dental Hygienist has been posted in the Federal Register for broader public comment.

This standard would apply exclusively to VA employees, and most VA Dental Hygienists would not experience any change in the way they practice health care. Similarly, this would not change how your state board interacts with VA Dental Hygienist or prevent you from taking disciplinary actions for negligence or misconduct.

If your state changes its requirements and places new limitations on the tasks or duties which are inconsistent with what the national standard of practice authorizes, the national standard of practice preempts such limitations and authorizes the VA health care professional to continue to practice consistent with the tasks and duties outlined in the national standard. We encourage you to contact VA.NSP@va.gov if at any time you enact such a restriction.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss the standard through a follow-up meeting if desired. Please send your comments and meeting request to VA.NSP@va.gov.

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Thank you for your support in enabling VA health care professionals to provide the best health care to the Nation's Veterans. For more information on the VA national standards of practice, please visit www.va.gov/standardspractice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shereef Elnahal', written in a cursive style.

Shereef Elnahal, M.D., MBA

Enclosure