

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT RULE OF THE GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
RULE 150-5-.08 USE OF A DENTAL DIODE LASER BY A DENTAL  
HYGIENIST**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Dentistry (hereinafter "Board") proposes to adopt Georgia Board of Dentistry Rule 150-5-.08 USE OF A DENTAL DIODE LASER BY A DENTAL HYGIENIST (hereinafter "proposed adoption").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the rule including the proposed adoption and a synopsis of the rule including the proposed adoption, is being forwarded to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on an interested parties list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the rule including the proposed adoption, and a synopsis of the rule including the proposed adoption may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Department of Community Health at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia Board of Dentistry's web page at <http://gbd.georgia.gov/>.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM on July 12, 2024 at the Department of Community Health at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed adoption. During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. To ensure their consideration, written comments must be received prior to July 5, 2024. Written comments should be addressed to Executive Director of the Georgia Board of Dentistry at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. You may email your comments to [elacefield@dch.ga.gov](mailto:elacefield@dch.ga.gov).

The proposed rule adoptions will be considered by the Georgia Board of Dentistry during its meeting scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM on July 12, 2024 at the Department of Community Health at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Dentistry has the authority to adopt the proposed rule adoptions pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A §§ 43-11-1, 43-11-7, 43-11-9, 43-11-73.1, and 43-11-74.


At its meeting on March 1, 2024, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these adoptions do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed adoption cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A §§ 43-11-7 and 43-11-9.

At its meeting on March 1, 2024, the Board also voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§43-11-7 and 43-11-9 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these adoptions will impact every licensee in the same manner, and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of dentistry.

For further information, contact the Board office at 404-651-8000.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-13-4.

This 12 day of June, 2024.



J. Clinton Joiner, II  
Executive Director  
Georgia Board of Dentistry

Posted: June 12, 2024

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE  
GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
RULE RULE 150-5-.08 USE OF A DENTAL DIODE LASER BY A DENTAL  
HYGIENIST.**

- Purpose:** To provide for the use of a dental diode laser in the practice of dental hygiene, under direct supervision.
- Main Features:** Specify the conditions, and circumstances underwhich a dental hygienist may utilize a dental diode laser in the practice of dental hygiene. Define the prerequisite training and continuing education requirement relative to dental diode laser use by a dental hygienist. Specify the record keeping requirements attendant to the use of a dental diode laser in the practice of dental hygiene.

**DIFFERENCES OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE  
GEORGIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
RULE RULE 150-5-.08 USE OF A DENTAL DIODE LASER BY A DENTAL  
HYGIENIST.**

NOTE: Struck through text is proposed to be deleted. Underlined text is proposed to be added.

A copy of the draft rule approved by the Board is attached hereto.

**Rule 150-5-.08 Use of a Dental Diode Laser by a Dental Hygienist**

- (1) A dental hygienist, under the direct supervision of a Georgia licensed dentist may use a dental diode laser limited to the use of bacterial reduction/disinfection of the gingival sulcus at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal except for incidental gingival curettage, provided:
  - (a) Prior to utilizing a dental diode laser, the dental hygienist must successfully complete interactive didactic and clinical training which includes laser safety, infection control, patient management and the operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the dental practice. Training must consist of not less than 8 hours of instruction, and must be obtained through a course provided or recognized by any of the following organizations, a successor organization thereof, or approved by the Board:
    1. The Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association;
    2. The American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program; or
    3. The Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education.
  - (b) A dental hygienist utilizing a dental diode laser shall maintain evidence of required training which shall be prominently displayed at the location where the dental hygienist is authorized to utilize a dental diode laser.
  - (c) A dental hygienist utilizing a dental diode laser shall complete two (2) hours of continuing education every two (2) years in the use of dental diode lasers in the practice of dental hygiene.
  - (d) All lasers shall be used in accordance with accepted safety guidelines.
- (2) When utilizing a dental diode laser pursuant to this Section, a dental hygienist shall document the following information in the patient's record:
  - (a) the type of laser utilized, including the wavelength of the laser;
  - (b) the settings used, such as pulse or continuous wave, and the power setting;
  - (c) local anesthesia used, if any; and
  - (d) the procedure attempted/performed, including details as to whether hard or soft tissue was removed.