

SERIES 13 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Dr. David Najjar commented the Board consider diode lasers only and consider there are multiple settings appropriate for the use within the realm of duties to be delegated to hygienists. Also, the Board should allow hygienists to use lasers with which they have been trained and certified to do the duties that they perform. Dr. Najjar attached a resolution from the Laser Committee of the West Virginia Dental Association.

The Board moved this item to the bottom of their topic list in order to attend the West Virginia Dental Association Executive Council meeting and hear the discussions on this topic. It is clear there are many different types of lasers used in dental offices across the State. The wavelengths on these lasers can be reduced to the settings of a diode laser. In consideration of this, the Board voted to remove the limitation to diode lasers, but limit the wavelength of the laser being used by a hygienist to no higher than 1064 nanometers. The Board also considered the language in the attachment from Dr. Najjar concerning the types of procedures hygienists should be allowed to perform with a laser. These procedures are:

1. Laser assisted periodontal therapy
2. Photobiomodulation (Adjunctive Low Level Laser Therapy)
3. Treatment of herpetic lesions and aphthous ulcers.

The Board voted to include these procedures in the list in the proposed rule.