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## Washington State Orthodontists Make a Difference!

We want to thank all the Washington State Orthodontists who have supported WSSO Legislative and Practice Divisions in advocating for positive changes at DQAC meetings about proposed rule revisions. **It takes a united effort and support to be able to achieve changes that protect our profession.**

In a recent practice management bulletin, the AAO legal and advisory department recognized the effort of our WSSO Board Members, especially Dr. Michelle Neal, WSSO's Legislative Chair:

*"[Dr.Neal] has spoken on behalf of the WSSO... on topics ranging from specialty advertising, to scope of practice, to infection control. In the fall of 2019, Dr. Neal continued her advocacy work by participating in discussions for a bill that would protect patients from certain unsafe dental practices."*

The WSSO efforts have been featured multiple times by the AAO. Please read one of the full columns [here](#).

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## Legislative Changes

The WSSO Legislative and Orthodontic Practice Divisions have been working hard to advocate for our members regarding the proposed revision of different rules by DQAC. Here are the main topics recently discussed:

### 1. Hygiene scope of practice

Through WSSO and WSDA presence and efforts, DQAC passed favorable rules to the orthodontic community.

Dental hygienists, under general supervision (no dentist present), can do some simple procedures such as **placing and removing separators, taking impressions or scans, select and fit bands, and try fixed or removable appliances before dentist cements**

**or checks them.** They are not allowed to perform bonding, place and remove aligner attachments, and other procedures without close supervision (dentist present).

The new revised rules can be seen [here WAC 246-817-550](#)

## 2. Specialty Representation

DQAC has made changes to the rule regarding the recognition of Dental Specialties. The language used has been supported by the ADA, AAO, and other local societies. The main changes made to the rule are:

- The addition of **Dental Anesthesiology** and **Oral Medicine** to the approved specialties list;
- Considering the new **ADA Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties** in the language;
- Allowing completion of a program of at least **2 years in length** recognized by the **United States Department of Education** in a special interest area of dentistry to be considered a specialist.

For the full version please click [here WAC 246-817-420](#)

## 3. Infection Control

The original language proposed by DQAC required any single use item placed in the patient's mouth or tray to be discarded. The language could include several orthodontic items that need fit testing such as bands, power scope, forsus, motion appliance, etc. This would have added significant cost to orthodontic practices.

A more favorable language was proposed per WSSO and WSDA:

- **Single-use items that need to be tested for size are not considered used** unless cemented in the mouth. Items can be cleaned or reprocessed when following the manufacture's instructions.
- **If a single-used item is not used**, but contaminated or exposed to aerosols during appointment by being placed on surfaces ready to use, it may only be sterilized if the process of doing so does not compromise the efficacy of the item;
- Effective August 31, 2022, **sterilization of low-speed hand piece motors** after use on a patient is required.

The reviewed changes can be accessed [here](#)

#### 4. Coronavirus:

DQAC did not come out with any additional requirements for dental practitioners. It refers the practitioners to follow all the applicable CDC guidelines and ADA recommendations.

DQAC announced that screening for coronavirus is **within the scope** of practice of a dentist.

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### Urgent message from our sister organization, the WSDA

Important changes are being voted on about how WDS/Delta Dental is governed. Proxy voting is underway to make changes to the Delta bylaws and

WSDA

**The WSDA recommends that you vote to approve all WDS/Delta amendments and asks that you submit your proxy now**

#### Proxy Instructions:

Fill out your proxy online at [cesvote.com](https://cesvote.com) using your Voting Control Number(found in your email or on mailed proxy by WSDA).

- Check a box to assign your proxy to one of the three individuals listed (all are committed to supporting the proposed amendments)
- Check the box FOR the election of Dr. Eve M. Rutherford, DDS
- Check the box FOR APPROVAL of the proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation
- Check the box FOR APPROVAL of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws

There is no need to mail in the hard copy of your proxy if you submit your proxy online.

**Please direct questions regarding WSDA's recommendations to WSDA Executive Director Bracken Killpack at [bracken@wsda.org](mailto:bracken@wsda.org).**

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### 2021 WSSO Annual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our February **in-person meeting has been rescheduled for 2022.**



We will have a virtual **General Membership Meeting** to inform you about all the current changes and discuss new events.

We will be sending the details shortly.

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## Welcome New WSSO Members!



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members of the WSSO! We look forward to meeting you soon and having you play a positive role in our society!

Dr. Renelle Conner  
Dr. Joseph Erickson  
Dr. Samuel Finkleman  
Dr. Robert Lee  
Dr. Lauren Todoki  
Dr. Cassie Truong  
Dr. Peter Wagner

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## WSSO Board of Directors

Dr. Geoff Greenlee	President
Dr. Michael Pickard	President-Elect
Dr. Wei Tian	Treasurer
Dr. Amrit Burn	Secretary
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Dr. Rod Dubois	Peer Review Division
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Dr. Sepideh Torkan	Member at Large
Dr. Nadia Farjo	Member at Large
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