State by State Dental Botox Regulations (USA)

Laws regarding who can administer Botox and dermal fillers vary so much from one state to the next that it can be hard to know whether you’re even allowed to use it, and if so, under what circumstances. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regulates a wide range of materials from medicines and medical devices to blood and therapeutic products and services that are derived from tissue engineering. MHRA also regulates the use of Botox. In the United States, plastic surgeons, nurses, internal medicine physicians, ophthalmologists, dermatologists, podiatrists, OB-Gyns, medical estheticians, and physicians’ assistants can administer Botox depending on individual state laws. Although the use of Botox in all facial therapies was pioneered by Dr. Howard Katz (a dentist), there are still some antiquated regulations in place in certain states.

Following is an easy to understand summary of the dental laws in 27 states, stipulating who can inject Botox.

Alaska
Who can give Botox injections in Alaska? The dental board states that dentists may perform any cosmetic procedure provided it is part of a dental treatment plan, but not as as standalone treatments.

Arkansas
Permits are not issued by the board for botulinum toxins or dermal fillers, and dental materials of all kinds are unregulated. Because dentists are offering the treatments more often, the board has outlined some requirements for their use. In order to administer Botox or dermal fillers, dentists must complete a course of training from either a dental institution approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or a continuing education course that includes instruction on:

- Consulting with and assessing patients for the use of Botox and dermal fillers;
- Uses and contraindications for these treatments;
- Safety and risks associated with botulinum toxins and injectable dermal filler treatments;
- How to prepare and administer the products for the best results;
- How to use dermal fillers to augment and conclude esthetic dental treatment;
- Using botulinum toxin to treat disorders of the temporomandibular joint and teeth grinding;
- How to recognize and manage adverse reactions and treat potential complications;
- How to evaluate the patient for the best outcomes, both therapeutic and esthetic;
- How to incorporate Botox and dermal fillers into dental and esthetic treatment plans;
- Hands on training on live patients, including diagnosing, planning treatments, dosing and administering Botox and dermal fillers;

The administration of Botox and dermal fillers is allowed only in dental offices observing universal precautions set forth by the Federal Centers for Disease Control. The treatments may only be administered by dentists, dental staff are prohibited.

Continuing education courses must be either approved or sponsored by at least one of the entities outlined in LAC 46:XXXIII.1615.

Connecticut
Who can inject Botox in Connecticut? The dental board permits dentists only to perform procedures related to the mouth, structures in the mouth, and the jaw. Procedures outside the area of the mouth or jaw may not be performed by dentists.

Delaware
Massachusetts

There are currently no regulations regarding Botox and dermal fillers, but a task force has been appointed to gather information so that policies and guidelines may be established.

Mississippi

Who can administer Botox in Mississippi? Currently only Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon are allowed to administer Botox and dermal fillers. In 2007, the dental board met to address the question of whether dentists are or should be allowed to perform cosmetic procedures outside the oral cavity regardless of whether the dentists holds a general or specialty license. The board ruled that these procedures may only be performed by surgeons who have completed a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery that is accredited by the American Dental Association.

Missouri

The appropriate scope of dental practice involves treating disease, deformity, injury or condition of the teeth or mouth and related structures, including lesions in the oral area. No guidelines currently exist regarding administration of Botox or similar medications.

Nevada

Who can give Botox injections in Nevada? Botox and dermal fillers for cosmetic uses are outside the appropriate scope of practice for a dentist and therefore dentists are not permitted to perform these injections for cosmetic purposes.

New Hampshire

Dentists may perform such procedures as fall under the scope of dental practice as defined by NH RSA 317-A:20 and for which they are adequately trained.

New Mexico

Who can inject Botox in New Mexico? The Board of Dental Health Care does not currently regulate the use of Botox or dermal fillers by dentists. The board is considering the issue and is expected to pass rules on these medications in the near future.

New York

Use of Botox and dermal fillers is allowed provided it is used as a part of treatment for dental reconstructive treatment, otherwise is not permitted by dentists. (see our New York Botox training program)

North Carolina

The board has ruled that any cosmetic or dermatological procedure that is not associated with dental treatments is outside the scope of dental practice.

Pennsylvania

Who can administer Botox in Pennsylvania? Board of Dentistry does not currently have any policies regarding use of Botox and dermal fillers by dentists, though a policy has been proposed and is under consideration.

South Carolina

There are currently no regulations regarding use of Botox by dentists.

South Dakota

Who can give Botox injections in South Dakota? There are currently no regulations regarding use of Botox by dentists, though such a policy may be addressed in the near future.

Texas

The laws regarding dental practice do not specifically regulate cosmetic procedures, but does limit the scope of dentistry to procedures involving teeth, mouth, gums, jaws and associated structures.

Virginia

Who can inject Botox in Virginia? The law limits cosmetic procedures outside the mouth to oral and maxillofacial surgeons holding specific cosmetic procedure certification issued by the Board of Dentistry. Dentists may, however, administer Botox as part of a dental treatment.

Washington

Minutes
Dentist & Dental Hygienist Board
September 17, 2009

E-mail Clarification re: Therapeutic and Cosmetic Treatments with Botox and Dermal Fillers in Maxillofacial Region by Dentist who has completed Certification Courses – Dr. Chris Keefe

not accept it. She stated all offices should have an internal procedure and treat all situations the same. Ms. Taxin asked if there are other Dental codes that put limits on gifts and/or monetary amounts.

Following discussion regarding if you take tickets to a game or pass on them, if there are strings attached, if it is a gift given at Christmas time, the Board determined if there are complaints then the issue should be reviewed on an individual basis to determine if a gift is excessive, if there are strings attached or if it is simply just a gift.

Dr. Larsen stated all Dentists have a responsibility to be moral.

Ms. Taxin read the e-mail from Dr. Chris Keefe. She stated she called Dr. Keefe and asked if the Botox and Dermal Fillers were for cosmetic reasons as that would not be in the scope of Dental practice but would be in scope of medical practice. She stated she explained if the procedures were for the mouth they could be the practice of Dentistry. Ms. Taxin stated Dr. Keefe e-mailed her again saying he had read the Dental Board minutes and they appeared confusing. She stated he asked what the difference is for cosmetic Dentistry and therapeutic Dentistry. She stated the Law and Rules are not specific in identifying all procedures Dentists do.

Dr. Radmall stated he believes PIE recommends Dentists not do any cosmetic/esthetic treatments with Botox or Dermal Fillers unless it is for Dental reasons.

Dr. Larsen stated the procedures a Dentist does are far more irreversible than Botox use.

Following discussion, the Board stated they would do additional research for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Taxin reviewed the suggestions Ms. Lowery had submitted regarding Rules changes. She explained when the Dental Rules were put through, Ms. Lowery suggest a word change be added. Ms. Taxin stated she
around the nation.

**Dr. Lundberg** stated he viewed the ADA Legislative site and determined ADA has not taken a position. He stated many Boards have taken a stance that it is in the scope but 3 Boards have determined it is in the scope of Dental practice but the use for cosmetic purposes is not appropriate.

**Ms. Bateman** asked how Botox can treat fibromyalga.

The Dentists responded Botox kills tissue which lessens the pain of fibromyalga.

**Dr. Lundberg** commented he found some positive results in his research. He stated as long as the use of Botox is in the treatment of Dentistry there is documentation to back it up as the practice of Dentistry.

**Ms Taxin** stated there is a prescription called Latisse for eyelash enhancement growth and she has been asked if Latisse is appropriate for Dentists to prescribe. She stated there are some Dentists selling the product out of there offices which is unlawful in Utah without a dispensing Pharmacy license. Ms. Taxin stated she has also been asked about Dentists injecting Restilin. She stated with Dentists offices becoming slower due to the economy prescribing Latisse and injecting Restilin are quick money makers. Ms. Taxin stated the Utah Statute does not address if these specific procedures are in the Dental scope. She stated the Utah Board to date has taken the position that the use of Botox/injections, Latisse and Restilin are not in the practice of Dentistry but it is not specifically addressed in the Law. She stated there are some states coming up with language to include these practices in their scope of practice for Dentists. She stated on the Dental Administrators website some states have mimicked the language of other states. Ms. Taxin stated Nevada Law says it is permissible so long as it is providing dental treatment. She stated Ohio asked if other states are approving courses for Dentists as the courses are trying to promote it for the practice of Dentistry.
professionally provided. She stated the Law allows for a Physician, Physician Assistant and APRN (a nurse who can prescribe) to do the injections. She stated Estheticians cannot do Botox injections but medical assistants can do injections under the direct and immediate supervision of a Physician as per Statute.

Dr. Larsen stated no matter what the Board/Division does, there are complications with some procedures.

Dr. Beyeler asked what risks there are in Botox treatments.

Dr. Radmall responded one risk is facial paralysis. He stated the paralysis can be temporary or permanent.

Ms. Taxin stated patients sometimes cannot smile and/or loose too much facial muscle control and a Dentist would know you only inject so much and where to inject it. She stated she understands an area could be paralyzed and a patient she knows was paralyzed for over 6 months. She stated a non-Dentist might go into an area and harm another organ such as the eye because they are not trained properly. She also stated there are a lot of different side effects with fillers and they cannot be taken out once injected.

Dr. Beyeler asked how plastic surgeons felt about Dentists doing Botox injections.

Ms. Taxin stated she has not brought it up with the Physicians Board or UMA. She suggested Mr. Thompson write up some language for her to present to the Physicians Board. She stated in the medical profession there are also practitioners who do not have the training in their specialty but are doing the procedure.

Ms. Bateman stated she thought this was an interesting discussion. She stated the Board is saying if a procedure affects the smile it is the practice of Dentistry and almost everything affects the smile. She stated she now understands if the chart documents the treatment is for therapeutic
Dr. Larsen stated cosmetic procedures are irreversible. He asked if there is time to get input from the Dental professionals at large.

Ms. Taxin stated there is some time to get input. She stated clarification for practitioners might be good to have in the language in the Law. Ms. Taxin stated the next question might be can the Dentist do skin improvement laser as the patient has a spot near the mouth. She stated some laser machines can do about 20 different procedures. Ms. Taxin reminded the Board to think of what is safe for the public. She stated the Board would have to clarify and she does not believe there is any authority in Statute to say Dentists can do skin laser treatments. Ms. Taxin stated if a Dentist harmed a patient it could be a problem. Ms. Taxin stated the procedure is a very quick way to make money and with the economy down practitioners could start getting into the financial aspect. She recommended the Board stay with their position that Botox, fillers and Laser treatments are not the practice of Dentistry unless it is used within the periodontal area until more research is pursued.

APPOINTMENTS:

1:45 pm
Ronda Trujillo, Compliance Update

Ms. Trujillo updated the Board regarding the compliance or non-compliance of probationers.

Ms. Trujillo reported Dr. Troy W. Yates is currently in compliance with his Stipulation and Order. She stated Dr. Yates is scheduled to terminate probation in January. Ms. Trujillo reminded the Board they requested Dr. Yates to submit a letter from his father regarding the reason's his father treated him and prescribed for him.

Dr. Lundberg asked if Dr. Yates is required to submit additional PIR documentation.

Ms. Taxin responded Dr. Lundberg could ask Dr. Yates for a final report for his file so it is documented that he has done well in the PIR program. She stated he can get a letter from a sponsor or a support leader.