

Policy Advisory on the Use of Botulinum Toxins and/or Dermal Fillers by Licensed Dentists

**Adopted by the Board of Registration in Dentistry, March 6, 2013;
Amended June 5, 2013**

M.G.L. Chapter 112, Section 50 defines a dentist as “a person [who]... holds himself out as being able to diagnose, treat, operate or prescribe for any disease, pain, injury, deficiency, deformity or other condition of the human teeth, alveolar process, gums or jaws, and associated parts, intra-orally or extra-orally, or if he either offers or undertakes by any method to diagnose, treat, operate or prescribe for any disease, pain, injury, deficiency, deformity or other condition of the same...”

This and related statutes, along with the accompanying regulations at 234 CMR 2.00-9.00, govern the practice of dentistry in the Commonwealth, and grant the Board of Registration in Dentistry the authority to determine the scope of practice for general dentistry services under Massachusetts law.

Currently, the ADA specialty in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery requires training in the use of botulinum toxin or dermal fillers in reconstructive surgery or other oral or maxillofacial treatment.

Therefore, a dentist licensed under MGL Chapter 112, Section 45 who holds ADA Board Certification in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery may administer botulinum toxin and dermal fillers in the course of treatment for oral or maxillofacial disease, disfigurement, or disfunction.

Additionally, it is the Board’s policy that dentists licensed under M.G.L. Chapter 112, Section 45 who do not hold ADA Board Certification in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery may use botulinum toxins and/or dermal fillers with patients so long as it is part of the delivery of the patient’s comprehensive dental treatment plan; is limited to the practice of dentistry; and the dentist has successfully completed training of a minimum of eight (8) hours in administration of botulinum toxins and/or eight (8) hours in administration of dermal fillers that includes instruction in the anatomy of head and neck, neurophysiology, patient selection, pharmacological effects and contraindications, management of complications, informed consent, and hands-on training on the administration of such agents. The training must be accredited by the American Dental Association’s Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP), the Academy of General Dentistry’s Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE) or other nationally-recognized and accredited entity approved by the Board.

Please note that full compliance with the provisions of 234 CMR 5.15 is required. This includes but is not limited to:

- obtaining the patient’s medical and dental history;
- conducting a clinical exam; and
- obtaining specific informed consent before botulinum toxins and/or dermal fillers are administered.