

**Whether it is within the scope of practice for a dental hygienist to deliver an application of oraquix or other topical anesthesia without an anesthesia permit.**

It is the opinion of the Board of Dentistry (“Board”) that ARSD 20:43:09:06:01 addressing local anesthesia refers to injectable local anesthetics which requires an anesthesia permit. It is within the scope of a dental hygienist to administer or apply topical anesthesia without an anesthesia permit so long as such administration or application is under the appropriate level of supervision of a dentist, and follows the manufacturers recommended usage and application instructions for the topical application.

*This advisory opinion was rendered by the Board upon submission of a written request. Although advisory opinions are not judicially reviewable and do not have the force and effect of law, they do serve as a guideline for dentists and dental hygienists who wish to engage in safe dental practices. This advisory opinion was adopted at the meeting of the South Dakota Board of Dentistry on June 17, 2016.*