

Laser Safety for the Clinical Dental Team

Presenter: Scott D. Benjamin, DDS

Format: Online Virtual Live Lecture

Date & Time: April 9, 2021 7:00pm to 8:30pm EDT

Credit Hours: 1.5 CE hours

Course Description:



All dental team members in facilities that are utilizing Class 4 (surgical, restorative, and periodontal) and Class 3B (therapeutic) lasers are required by the *American National Standard Z136.3 for the Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care (ANSI Z136.3)* to have laser safety training that is appropriate for their role and potential exposure. **This is NOT a Laser Safety Officer (LSO) training course.** This multi-section program is for the clinical team members that are assisting their dentists and hygienists in their utilization of lasers and light based technologies in their patient care. This program provides a fundamental overview of laser physics, the different type of lasers, and related tissue interactions. This information is designed to obtain a better understanding of the role of lasers in patient care and how to appropriately communicate their values to their patients. This course focuses on the role of the clinical dental assistant and the safety concerns and how to address these concerns when a laser is being setup and utilized, as well as, infection control concerns and reprocessing processes.

The primary role of the program is to assist the dental facility's LSO in educating their clinical team to have the knowledge needed to safely and efficiently implement a laser program into everyday use. The facility's LSO will expand on the material contained in the program with information specific to lasers being utilized, and the policies and procedures established for each location.

This is NOT a training course on the use of a Class 3B or Class 4 laser. ANSI Standard Z136.3 requires that users of Class 3B and Class 4 lasers must have a device specific hands-on training course for the procedures they are performing taught by a clinician that has the professional status to perform those procedures.

A partial list of topics included in the program's curriculum:

- The role and authority of the LSO
- Basic Laser Terminology
- Fundamental Laser physics and related tissue interaction
- Basic components of a Health Care Laser System (HCLS)
- Overview of clinical applications
- Understanding the Laser Controlled Area
- Beam hazards and their management
- Non-beam hazards and their management
- Inspection of the facility's Health Care Laser Systems (HCLS)

After completing this program the attendee should be able to:

1. Properly assist on dental laser procedures
2. Identify and select the appropriate eye protection when a laser is being utilized
3. The need, role, and value of proper evacuation when a laser is being utilized
4. Understand the safety concerns when setting up and reprocessing a HCLS

Instructor:

Dr. Scott Benjamin is in private practice in upstate NY and has faculty appointments at several universities. He is the dental Representative on the ANSI Committee Z136 on the Safe Use of Lasers that produces the American Standards on laser safety and is Co-Chair of the ADA Standards Committee Working Group on Dental Lasers, a Past-President of the Academy of Laser Dentistry.

Course Registration:

Register on AIM's website at www.DentalAIM.org or
Send an email to Education@DentalAIM.org with any questions.

