

LANE COUNTY
B-061
Established: 5/12/04
Updated: 12/11/14
Updated 01/05/15

DENTAL HYGIENIST

DEFINITION

To perform dental hygiene work in a clinic setting or outlying community location.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

May receive general supervision from assigned professional and supervisory staff according to licensure and/or permit.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES - Duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

Performs dental prophylaxis: Cleans calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from teeth and beneath margins of gums, using dental instruments.

Examines gums, using probes, to locate periodontal recessed gums and signs of gum disease.

Applies fluorides and other cavity preventing agents to arrest dental decay.

Performs dental charting, exposes and develops x-ray film.

Develops and provides dental health education to clients.

May provide clinical services and health education to improve and maintain oral health of school children.

May feel lymph nodes under patient's chin to detect swelling or tenderness that could indicate presence of oral cancer. Feels and visually examines gums for sores and signs of disease.

Makes impressions for study casts.

May place and remove rubber dams, matrices, and temporary restorations.

May place, carve, and finish amalgam restorations. May remove excess cement from coronal surfaces of teeth.

May provide triage for emergent dental conditions; take blood pressure; administer topical and local anesthesia.

Performs related duties as assigned within license and/or permit parameters.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Principles, practices and procedures of dental anatomy, physiology and nutrition.

Methods and techniques of dental disease prevention.

Dental office practices, procedures and record keeping requirements.

Ability to:

Provide individual and group instruction to help patients understand how to prevent dental disease and maintain good dental health.

Use excellent oral communication to explain, persuade and reason with a wide variety of patients and their families having widely varying cognitive abilities, cultural backgrounds, and education levels.

Work independently or within a team.

Make decisions independently in accordance with established policies and use initiative and judgment in completing assignments.

Use dental equipment and materials.

Experience and Training

Training:

Graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.

Experience:

Experience is preferred.

An equivalent combination of experience and training that will demonstrate the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying.

Special Requirements: Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate and valid license to practice dental hygiene issued by the State of Oregon; CPR certification. Some positions may require the possession of a valid driver's license or acceptable alternative method of transportation. May require Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist (EPDH) permit.