

Direct Access States

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) defines direct access as the ability of a dental hygienist to initiate treatment based on their assessment of a patient's needs without the specific authorization of a dentist, treat the patient without the presence of a dentist, and maintain a provider-patient relationship (ADHA Policy Manual, 13-15).

** Indicates direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed*

Alaska 2008

Sec. 08.32.115

Collaborative Agreement:

Dental hygienist may provide services according to the terms of a collaborative agreement. The dentist's presence, diagnosis or treatment plan are not required unless specified by agreement. Care under the agreement can be provided in settings outside of the "usual place of practice" (i.e. private dental office).

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have minimum of 4,000 hours of clinical experience within preceding 5 years. Agreement must be approved by state board of dental examiners. Dentists are limited to 5 or fewer collaborative agreements.

Provider Services: Agreement can authorize nearly the entire dental hygiene scope of practice (patient education, prophylaxis, sealants, radiographs, etc).

Arizona 2004/2015

Sec. 32-1281, 32-1289

Affiliated Practice Agreement:

Dental hygienist with a written affiliated practice agreement may perform dental hygiene services in specified settings outside the private dental office. The written agreement must be submitted to state board of dental examiners. The affiliated practice dental hygienist shall consult with the affiliated practice dentist before initiating further treatment on patients who have not been seen by a dentist within 12 months of the initial treatment by the dental hygienist.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have held an active license for at least 5 years and be actively engaged in dental hygiene practice for at least five hundred hours in each of the 2 years immediately preceding the affiliated practice relationship. Alternatively, dental hygienist who holds a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene, an active license for at least 3 years and is actively engaged in dental hygiene practice for at least 500 hours in each of the 2 years preceding the affiliated practice relationship, may also qualify for affiliated practice. In addition, dental hygienist must successfully complete 12 hours of specified continuing education that hold a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

**Provider Services:* The agreement must outline practice settings and services provided. The full dental hygiene scope is permitted with the exception of root planing, nitrous oxide and the use of local anesthesia unless under specified circumstances. After taking an accredited course and exam the dental hygienist will also be able to: place, contour and finish restorations, cement prefabricated crowns and place interim therapeutic restorations.

Arizona 2006

Sec. 32-1289

Dental hygienist employed by or working under contract or as a volunteer for a public health agency or institution or a public or private school authority before an examination by a dentist may screen patients and apply topical fluoride without entering into an affiliated practice relationship pursuant to this section.

Arkansas 2010

Sec. 17-82-7

Collaborative Agreement:

Dental hygienist with a Collaborative Care permit I or II who has entered into a collaborative agreement may perform dental hygiene services on children, senior citizens age 65 and older, and persons with developmental disabilities in long-term care facilities, free clinics, hospitals, head start programs, residence of homebound patients, local health units, schools, community health centers, state and county correctional institutions. Dental hygienist must have written agreement with no more than one dentist.

Requirements: Must have malpractice insurance. Collaborative Care Permit I: Dental hygienist must have 1,200 hours of clinical practice experience, or have taught dental hygiene courses for 2 of the proceeding 3 years. Collaborative Care Permit II: Dental hygienist must have 1,800 hours of clinical practice experience or taught dental hygiene courses for 2 of the proceeding 3 years and has completed 6 hours of continued education courses.

Provider Services: Collaborative Care Permit I may provide prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, dental hygiene instruction, assessment and other services in scope if delegated by consulting dentist to children in public settings without supervision or prior examination.

Collaborative Care Permit II may provide prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, dental hygiene instruction, assessment, and other services in scope if delegated by the consulting dentist to children, senior citizens, and persons with developmental disabilities in public settings without supervision or prior examination.

California 1998

Sec. 1922-1931

Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP):

RDHAP may provide services to a patient without obtaining written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician. If the RDHAP provides services to a patient 18 months or more after the first date that he or she provides services, the RDHAP shall obtain written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician.

Once licensed, the RDHAP may practice as: an employee of a dentist; an employee of another RDHAP; as an independent contractor; as a sole proprietor of an alternative dental hygiene practice; as an employee of a primary care clinic or specialty clinic; as an employee of a clinic owned or operated by a public hospital or health system; or as an employee of a clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county under the California welfare code. Allowed practice settings include: residences of the homebound; schools; residential facilities and other institutions; hospitals; or dental health professional shortage areas.

Requirements: Must hold a current and active California license as a dental hygienist; have been engaged in clinical practice as a dental hygienist for a minimum of 2,000 hours during the immediately preceding 36 months (in California or another state); possess a bachelor's degree or an equivalent of 120 semester units; complete 150 hours of an approved educational RDHAP program; and pass a written examination.

**Provider Services:* All services permitted under general supervision, including prophylaxis, root planing, pit and fissure sealants, charting and examination of soft tissue.

California 2002

Sec. 1911

Dental hygienist may provide screening, apply fluorides and sealants without supervision in government created or administered public health programs.

Colorado 1987

Sec. 12-35-124

Unsupervised Practice:

There is no requirement that a dentist must authorize or supervise most dental hygiene services. Dental hygienist may also own a dental hygiene practice.

Requirements: None.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can provide dental hygiene diagnosis, radiographs, remove deposits, accretions, and stains, curettage without anesthesia, apply fluorides and other recognized preventive agents, topical anesthetic, oral inspection and charting. Local anesthesia requires general supervision.

Connecticut 1999

Sec. 20-126I

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist with 2 years experience may practice without supervision in institutions, public health facilities, group homes and schools.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have at least 2 years of experience.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can provide oral prophylaxis, remove deposits, accretions and stains, root planing, sealants, assessment, treatment planning and evaluation.

Florida 2011

Sec. 466.003, 466.024

Dental hygienist may provide services without the physical presence, prior examination, or authorization of a dentist, provided that a dentist or physician gives medical clearance prior to performance of a prophylaxis in "health access settings." A dentist must examine a patient within 13 months following a prophylaxis and an exam must take place before additional oral services may be performed.

Health access settings are: a program of the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, a nonprofit community health center centers, a Head Start centers, a federally-qualified health

center, a school-based prevention program or a clinic operated by an accredited dental or dental hygiene program.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must maintain liability insurance.

Provider Services: Dental charting, take vital signs, record histories, apply sealants and fluorides (including varnish) and perform prophylaxis.

The setting operating the program may bill a third party for reimbursement.

Idaho 2004

Sec. 54-903, 54-904

Extended Access Endorsement (EAE):

Dental hygienist can provide services in hospitals, long term care facilities, public health facilities, health or migrant clinics or other board-approved settings, if the dentist affiliated with authorizes services.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must be an employee of the facility or obtain extended care permit. EAE requires 1,000 hours experience in last 2 years.

Provider Services: As determined by authorizing dentist.

Illinois 2015

225 ILCS 25/18.1

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

A dental hygienist may treat patients in specified public health settings without a dentist first examining the patient and being present during treatment, who are Medicaid-eligible or uninsured and with household incomes not greater than 200% of the federal poverty level.

Requirements: A licensed dental hygienist must have 2 years of full-time clinical experience or an equivalent of 4,000 hours of clinical experience and have completed 42 hours of additional course work in areas specific to public health dentistry. The dental hygienist must also practice pursuant to a written public health supervision agreement with a dentist.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist may provide prophylactic cleanings, apply fluoride place sealants, and take radiographs. Additional services may be prescribed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Iowa 2004

Rule 650-10.5 (153)

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist may administer care based on standing orders and a written agreement with a dentist. Services can be administered in schools, Head Start settings, nursing facilities, federally-qualified health centers, public health vans, free clinics, community centers and public health programs.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 3 years of clinical experience and must submit an annual report to the state department of health noting the number of patients treated/services administered.

Provider Services: All services in the dental hygiene scope (except local anesthesia and nitrous) may be provided once to each patient. The supervising dentist must specify a

period of time in which an examination by a dentist must occur prior to the dental hygienist rendering further dental hygiene services. However, this requirement does not apply to educational services, assessments, screenings and fluoride if specified in the supervision agreement.

Kansas 2003/2012

Sec. 65-1456

Extended Care Permit I, II & III (ECP):

Dental hygienist may practice without the prior authorization of a dentist if the dental hygienist has an agreement with sponsoring dentist. Examples of settings are schools, Head Start programs, state correctional institutions, local health departments, indigent care clinics, and in adult care homes, hospital long term units, or at the home of homebound persons on medical assistance. The ECP I permit authorizes treatment on children in various limited access categories, while the EPT II permit is for seniors and persons with developmental disabilities. ECP III permit authorizes dental hygienists to treat a wider range of patients, including underserved children, seniors and developmentally disabled adults and to provide more services than ECP I and II.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 1,200 clinical hours or 2 years teaching in last 3 years for ECP I; 1,600 hours or 2 years teaching in last 3 years plus 6 hour course for ECP II. Dental hygienist must also carry liability insurance and must be paid by dentist or facility. ECP III requires 2,000 hours clinical experience plus 18 clock hour board approved course. Dentist can monitor a maximum of 5 practices.

Provider Services: ECP I and II provide prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, dental hygiene instruction, assessment of the patient's need for further treatment by a dentist, and other services if delegated by the sponsoring dentist. ECP III can additionally provide atraumatic restorative technique, adjustment and soft relines of dentures, smoothing sharp tooth with handpiece, local anesthesia in setting where medical services available, extraction of mobile teeth.

Kentucky 2010

Sec. 313.040

Volunteer Community Health Settings:

A dental hygienist may provide the services listed below without the supervision of a dentist in volunteer community health settings.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can provide dental hygiene instruction, nutritional counseling, oral screening with subsequent referral to a dentist, fluoride application, demonstration of oral hygiene technique, and sealants.

Maine 2001

Rule 02 313 Chap. 1. Sec. 4

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist may provide services in a public or private school, hospital or other nontraditional practice setting under a public health supervision status granted by the dental board on a case-by-case basis. The dental hygienist may perform services rendered under general supervision. The dentist should have specific standing orders and procedures to be carried out, although the dentist need not be present when the services have been provided.

A written plan for referral or an agreement for follow-up shall be provided by the public health hygienist recording all conditions that should be called to the attention of the

dentist. The supervising dentist shall review a summary report at the completion of the program or once a year.

Requirements: A dental hygienist must apply to the board to practice providing such information the board deems necessary. The board must take into consideration whether the program will fulfill an unmet need, whether a supervising dentist is available and that the appropriate public health guidelines and standards of care can be met and followed.

**Provider Services:* All services that can be provided under general supervision. Dentist's diagnosis for sealants is not needed in public health or school sealant programs.

Maine 2008/2015

Sec. B-1. 32 MRSA c. 16, sub-c. 3-B

Independent Practice Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist licensed as an independent practice dental hygienist may practice without supervision by a dentist in all settings.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must possess a Bachelor's degree from a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program and 2,000 work hours of clinical practice during the two years preceding the application or possess an associate degree from a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program and 6,000 work hours of clinical practice during the six years preceding the application. They are also required to provide a referral plan to patients in need of additional care by a dentist.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist may interview patients and record complete medical and dental histories, take and record the vital signs of blood pressure, pulse and temperature, perform oral inspections, recording all conditions that should be called to the attention of a dentist; perform complete periodontal and dental restorative charting; perform all procedures necessary for a complete prophylaxis, including root planing; apply fluoride to control caries; apply desensitizing agents to teeth; apply topical anesthetics; apply sealants; smooth and polish amalgam restorations, limited to slow speed application only; cement pontics and facings outside the mouth; take impressions for athletic mouth guards and custom fluoride trays; place and remove rubber dams; place temporary restorations in compliance with the protocol adopted by the board; and apply topical antimicrobials, excluding antibiotics, including fluoride, for the purposes of bacterial reduction, caries control and desensitization in the oral cavity. May expose and process radiographs.

Maryland 2010/2014

Sec. 10.44.21.10

General Supervision:

Dental hygienist may practice under the general supervision of a dentist in a long-term care facility. A dental hygienist practicing under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in a long-term care facility shall have a written agreement with the supervising dentist that clearly sets forth the terms and conditions under which the dental hygienist may practice.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must hold an active license, hold a current certificate evidencing Health Care Provider Level C Proficiency, or its equivalent, in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, have at least 2 years of active clinical practice in direct

patient care, and ensure that the long-term care facility where the dental hygienist will practice under general supervision has:

- (a) A written medical emergency plan in place;
- (b) Adequate equipment, including portable equipment and appropriate armamentarium, available for the appropriate delivery of dental hygiene services; and
- (c) Adequate safeguards to protect the patient's health and safety.

Provider Services: Limit dental hygiene tasks and procedures to toothbrush prophylaxis, application of fluoride, dental hygiene instruction, and other duties as may be delegated, verbally or in writing, by the supervising dentist.

Massachusetts 2009

Chap. 112, Sec. 51.

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist may provide services without the supervision of a dentist in public health settings including, and not limited to, hospitals, medical facilities, schools and community clinics. Prior to providing services, a public health dental hygienist must have a written collaborative agreement with a local or state government agency or institution, or licensed dentist that states the level of communication with the dental hygienist to ensure patient health and safety. Public health dental hygienists shall provide patients with a written referral to a dentist and an assessment of further dental needs.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have at least 3 years of full-time clinical experience practicing in a public health setting and any other training deemed appropriate by the department of health.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can provide full scope of dental hygiene practice services allowed under general supervision in the private office, including prophylaxis, root planing, curettage, sealants and fluoride.

Michigan 2005

Sec. 333.16625

PA 161 Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist with grantee status can practice in a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. Collaborating dentist need not be present for or authorize treatment, but dental hygienist must have continuous availability of direct communication with a dentist to establish emergency protocol and review patient records.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must apply to the state department of community health for designation as grantee health agency.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can provide full scope of dental hygiene services allowed under general supervision, including prophylaxis, sealants, and fluoride treatments.

Minnesota 2001

Sec. 150A. 10, Subd. 1a

Collaborative Practice:

Dental hygienist must enter into a written collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist that designates authorization for the services provided by the dental hygienist.

Collaborative practice hygienist can be employed or retained by a health care facility, program or nonprofit organization.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have at least 2,400 hours of clinical experience in the preceding 18 months or a career total of 3,000 hours, including a minimum of 200 hours of clinical practice in two of the past three years. Dental hygienist must also meet additional continuing education requirements.

**Provider Services:* Collaborative practice dental hygienist can administer prophylaxis, application of topical preventive and prophylactic agents, application of sealants, fluoride varnishes, coronal polishing, preliminary charting, radiographs and root planing.

Missouri 2001

Sec. 332.311.2

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist may provide services without supervision in public health settings to Medicaid-eligible children and can be directly reimbursed.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 3 years of experience.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can provide oral prophylaxis, sealants and fluorides.

Montana 2003

Sec. 37-4-405

Public Health Dental Hygienist/Limited Access Permit (LAP):

Dental hygienists may obtain a limited access permit to practice under public health supervision in a variety of federally funded health centers and clinics, nursing homes, extended care facilities, home health agencies, group homes for the elderly, disabled, and youth, head start programs, migrant work facilities and local and state public health facilities. Public health supervision means the dental hygienist can provide services without the authorization of a dentist provided he or she follows protocols established by the board and refers any patients needing further dental treatment.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 2,400 hours experience in the last 3 years; 3,000 hours over career with 350 hours each of the last 2 years. An additional 12 hours of continuing education every 2 years and liability insurance are also required.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can provide prophylaxis, fluoride, root planing, sealants polish restorations, radiographs for diagnosis by a dentists and oral cancer screening.

Nebraska 2007

Sec. 38-1130

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

The Department of Health may authorize an unsupervised dental hygienist to provide services in a public health setting or a health care or related facility.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 3,000 hours experience in at least 4 of last 5 years. Dental hygienist must also have professional liability insurance.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can perform prophylaxis for a healthy child, pulp vitality testing and preventive measures including fluorides and sealants.

New Hampshire 1993

Rule 302.02(d), 402.01(c)

Public Health Supervision:

Dental hygienist may treat patients in a school, hospital, institution or residence of a homebound patient. Supervising dentist must authorize dental hygienist to provide services but need not be present for care.

Requirements: None.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can provide instruction in oral hygiene, topical fluorides, prophylaxis, assess medical/dental history, periodontal probing/charting, and sealants.

New Hampshire 2012

Sec. 317-A:21-e

Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist may practice in a school, hospital, or other institution, or for a homebound person without the dentist having to be present, provided the dentist has reviewed the records once in a 12-month period. Dental Hygienists may perform any procedure that is within the scope of practice that has been authorized under public health supervision.

Requirements: Any dental hygienist shall be considered qualified as a certified public health dental hygienist after obtaining a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene with a minimum of 6 semester hours in community dental health; obtaining a master's degree in public health; or after successfully completing specified courses and successful completion of an examination by the course provider.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can perform radiographic imaging limited to bite wings, and occlusal and periapical radiography and provide nutritional counseling for the control of dental disease.

New Mexico 1999/2011

Sec. 16.5.17

Collaborative Practice:

Dental hygienist can practice in any setting with collaborative agreement and can own or manage a collaborative dental hygiene practice. Dental hygienist must enter into a written agreement with one or more collaborative dentist(s) which must contain protocols for care. Dental hygienist must refer patients for annual dental exam.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 2,400 hours of active practice in preceding 18 months or 3,000 hours in 2 of the past 3 years. Dentists may not collaborate with more than 3 dental hygienists.

**Provider Services:* Collaborative practice dental hygienist can provide a dental hygiene assessment, radiographs, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, assessment for and application of sealants, root planing, and may prescribe and administer and dispense topically applied fluoride and antimicrobials, depending on the specific services allowed in agreement with collaborating a dentist.

New Mexico 2007

Sec. 61-5A-C

No supervision required for any dental hygienist to apply topical fluorides and remineralization agents in public and community medical facilities, schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities and such other settings as the board may determine.

New York 2005

Rules Sec. 61.9

General Supervision:

Dental hygienist can initiate patient care in any public or private setting. Dentist must authorize procedures and be available for consultation, diagnosis and evaluation.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can provide prophylaxis, root planing, fluoride treatments, patient education, charting and radiographs without a prior dental examination, the presence of a dentist, or need to refer to a dentist.

New York 2013

Sec. 6606

Collaborative Practice:

The practice of dental hygiene may be conducted in the office of any licensed dentist or in any appropriately equipped school or public institution but must be done either under the supervision of a licensed dentist or, in the case of a registered dental hygienist working for a hospital as defined in article twenty-eight of the public health law, pursuant to a collaborative arrangement with a licensed and registered dentist who has a formal relationship with the same hospital in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department in consultation with the Department of Health.

Article twenty-eight facilities include: hospitals, public health, diagnostic and treatment centers, dental clinics, dental dispensaries, nursing homes, out-patient departments, rehab centers not solely for vocational rehab and other such facilities overseen by the state Health Department.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must instruct individuals to visit a dentist for comprehensive examination or treatment, possess and maintain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and provide collaborative services only pursuant to a written agreement that is maintained in the practice setting of the dental hygienist and collaborating dentist.

Provider Services: May only provide those services that may be provided under general supervision.

Nevada 1998

Sec. 631.287

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist may obtain approval to work as public health dental hygienists in schools, community centers, hospitals, nursing homes and such other locations as the state dental health officer deems appropriate without supervision.

Requirements: Special endorsement from the dental board. Submissions of protocol to describe the methods a dental hygienist will use to provide services.

**Provider Services:* May provide most hygiene services and may administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide in a facility with certain equipment and dentist authorization.

Ohio 2010

Sec. 4715.363

Oral Health Access Supervision Permit Program:

Dental hygienist who possess an oral health access supervision permit may provide dental hygiene services through a written agreement with a dentist in public health settings including, and not limited to a health care facility, state correctional institution, residential facility, school, shelter for victims of domestic abuse or runaways, foster home, non-profit clinic, dispensary or mobile dental clinic.

Prior to providing services, a dental hygienist with an oral health access supervision permit must have a written agreement with a dentist, who possesses an oral health supervision permit, that states the dentist has evaluated the dental hygienist's skills and the dentist has reviewed and evaluated the patient's health history. The dentist need not be present or examine the patient before the dental hygienist may provide care. The collaborating dentist must perform a clinical evaluation of the patient before the dental hygienist may provide subsequent care. The evaluation may be done using electronic communication.

Requirements: Two years and a minimum of 3,000 hours of clinical experience, minimum of 24 continuing education credits during the two years prior to apply for the oral health access supervision permit including an eight hour course as required by the board.

Provider Services: Prophylactic, preventive and other procedures a dentist can delegate to a dental hygienist except definitive root planing, definitive subgingival curettage, administration of local anesthesia and other procedures specified in rules adopted by the board.

Ohio 2013

Sec. 4715.22

The requirement for a dentist to perform an examination and diagnose a patient prior to the patient receiving dental hygiene services through a program operated by a school district or other specified entity does not apply when the only services to be provided are the placement of pit and fissure sealants.

Oklahoma 2003

Sec. 328.34

General Supervision:

Dental hygienist may provide services outside of the private dental office for a patient not examined by the dentist. Dentist must authorize care in writing.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have at least 2 years of experience.

Provider Services: Most dental hygiene services, including sealants, fluorides, and prophylaxis, to a patient one time prior to a dental exam.

Oregon 1997

Sec. 680.200, Rule 818-035-0065

Limited Access Permit (LAP):

Dental hygienists who have obtained a limited access permit (LAP) may initiate unsupervised services for patients in a variety of limited access settings such as extended care facilities, facilities for the mentally ill or disabled, correctional facilities, schools and pre-schools, medical offices or offices operated or staffed by a nurse practitioner midwives or physicians assistants, and job training centers. Dental hygienist must refer the patient annually to a licensed dentist available to treat the patient.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 2,500 hours of supervised dental hygiene practice and complete 40 hours of board-approved courses in an accredited dental hygiene program or completed a course of study approved by the board that includes at least 500 hours of dental hygiene practice on limited access patients while under direct faculty supervision. Dental hygienist must also have liability insurance.

**Provider Services:* LAP dental hygienists can provide all dental hygiene services, except several (local anesthesia, pit and fissure sealants, denture relines, temporary restorations, radiographs and nitrous oxide) which must be supervised by a dentist. Dental hygienist may prescribe fluorides and assess the need for sealants.

Oregon 2011

Sec. 680.205

Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist (EPDH)

Replaces Limited Access Permit. Adds services to patients below federal poverty level and other settings approved by the board to EPDH practice settings. Adds limited prescriptive authority, local anesthesia, temporary restorations and dental assessments to unsupervised EPDH scope if EPDH has agreement with a dentist. Requires insurance reimbursement of EPDHs.

Pennsylvania 2007

Sec. 2 (Definitions), Sec. 11.9

Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner:

Dental hygienists who are certified as public health dental hygiene practitioners may provide care in a variety of public health settings without the supervision or prior authorization of a dentist.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 3,600 hours experience and liability insurance. Dental hygienist must also complete 5 hours of continuing education in public health during each licensure period.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can provide educational, preventive, therapeutic, and intra-oral services, including complete prophylaxis and sealants, dental hygienists in the state are authorized to provide.

Rhode Island 2006

Sec. 5-31.1-6.1

General Supervision:

Dental hygienists working under a dentist's general supervision can initiate dental hygiene treatment to residents of nursing facilities. Dental hygienists working in nursing facilities can treat patients, regardless of whether or not the patient is a patient of record, as long as documentation of services administered is maintained and necessary referrals for follow-up treatment are made.

Requirements: None.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can initiate dental hygiene services, including oral health screening assessments, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, charting, and other duties delegable under general supervision.

Rhode Island 2015

Sec. 5-31.1-39 (Not yet codified)

Public Health Hygienists:

Any public health dental hygienist may perform dental hygiene procedures in a public health setting, without the immediate or direct supervision or direction of a dentist. Public health settings includes, but are not limited to, residences of the homebound, schools, nursing home and long-term care facilities, clinics, hospitals, medical facilities or community health centers.

Requirements: A public health dental hygienist shall enter into a written collaborative agreement with a local or state government agency or institution or with a licensed dentist. Any public health dental hygienist shall provide to the patient or to the patient's legal guardian a consent form to be signed by the patient or legal guardian. The consent form shall also inform the patient or legal guardian that the patient should obtain a dental examination by a dentist within ninety days after undergoing a procedure.

**Provider Services:* Any procedure or service that is within the dental hygiene scope of practice that has been authorized and adopted by board as a delegable procedure for a dental hygienist under general supervision in a private practice setting.

South Carolina 2003

Sec. 40-15-110 (A) (10)

General Supervision:

Dental hygienist employed by, or contacted through, the Department of Health and Environment Control may provide services under general supervision that does not require prior examination by a dentist in settings such as schools or nursing homes.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must carry professional liability insurance.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist employed by, or contacted through, the Department of Health and Environment Control may provide prophylaxis, fluorides, and sealants.

South Dakota 2011

Rules 20:43:10

Dental hygienist may provide preventive and therapeutic services under collaborative supervision of a dentist in a school, nursing facility, Head Start program, non-profit mobile dental clinic, community health center or government program.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must possess a license to practice in the state and have 3 years of clinical practice in dental hygiene and a minimum of 4,000 practice hours. A minimum of 2,000 of those hours must have been completed within 2 of the 3 years preceding application. Dental hygienist must have a written collaborative agreement with a dentist and satisfactorily demonstrate knowledge of medical and dental emergencies and their management, infection control, pharmacology, disease transmission, management of early childhood caries and management of special needs population.

Provider Services: Any services that can be provided under general supervision.

Tennessee 2013

Sec. 63-5-109

Dental hygienist may apply dental sealants or topical fluoride to the teeth of individuals in a setting under the direction of a state or local health department, without requiring an evaluation by a dentist prior to such application, under a protocol established by the state or a metropolitan health department.

Texas 2001

Sec. 262.1515

General Supervision:

Dental hygienist may provide services for up to 6 months without dentist seeing the patient. Services may be performed in school-based health center, nursing facility or community health center. Dental hygienist must refer the patient to a dentist following treatment and may not perform a second set of services until the patient has been examined by a dentist.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have at least 2 years of experience.

Provider Services: No limitations. Dentist must authorize services in writing.

Utah 2015

Sec. 58-69-801

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

A dental hygienist may treat patients in specified public health settings pursuant to a written agreement with a dentist. The settings include a homebound patient's residence, a school, a nursing home, an assisted living facility, a community health center, a federally-qualified health center and a mobile dental health program that employs a dentist.

Requirements: Must be a licensed Utah dental hygienist and have a written agreement with a collaborating dentist. The agreement provides that the dental hygienist shall refer a patient with a dental need beyond the dental hygienist's scope of practice to a dentist. Each patient must complete an informed consent form that provides that treatment by a dental hygienist is not a substitute for a dental examination by a dentist.

Provider Services: All general supervision preventive functions in scope of practice. Local anesthesia and nitrous oxide administration are not permitted.

Vermont 2008

Rule 10.2

General Supervision Agreement:

Dental hygienist may provide services in a school or institution under the supervision of a dentist via a general supervision agreement. The agreement authorizes the dental hygienist to provide services, agreed to between the dentist and the dental hygienist. The agreement does not require physical presence of the dentist but it stipulates that the supervising dentist review all patient records.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 3 years licensed clinical practice experience.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can provide sealants, fluoride varnish, prophylaxis and radiographs. Periodontal maintenance is allowable to patients with mild periodontitis.

Virginia 2009/2016

Sec. 54.1-2722

Remote Supervision:

A three-year pilot study of remote supervision of dental hygienists employed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) began in 2009 and proved to be a highly successful model in prevention and improving access to care. SB 712 expanded the Remote Supervision Public Health Model for the dental hygienist employed outside of VDH. Remote supervision means that a public health dentist has regular, periodic communications with a public health dental hygienist regarding patient treatment, but such dentist may not have done an initial examination of the patients who are to be seen and treated by the dental hygienist and may not be present with the dental hygienist when dental hygiene services are being provided.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 2 years of experience and must be employed by the VDH.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can provide initial examination of teeth and surrounding areas, prophylaxis, scaling, sealants, topical fluoride, education services, assessment and screening.

Washington 1984/2009

Sec. 18.29.056

Unsupervised and Off-Site Supervision:

Dental hygienist may be employed, retained or contracted by health care facilities to perform authorized dental hygiene services without supervision, provided the dental hygienist refers patient to a dentist for dental planning and treatment.

Health care facilities are limited to hospitals; nursing homes; home health agencies; group homes serving the elderly, individuals with disabilities and juveniles; state-operated institutions under the jurisdiction of the department of social and health services or the department of corrections; and federal, state, and local public health facilities, state or federally funded community and migrant health centers and tribal clinics. Specifically in senior centers, dental hygienist may provide limited dental hygiene services with under the "off-site supervision" of a dentist.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 2 years clinical experience within the last 5 year with a dentist. Written practice plan required in certain settings.

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist may provide prophylaxis, application of typical preventive or prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing restorations root planing and curettage.

Washington 2001

Sec. 18.29.220

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist who is school endorsed may assess for and apply sealants and fluoride varnishes and perform prophylaxis in community-based sealant programs carried out in schools.

Requirements: Sealant/Fluoride Varnish Endorsement from Department of Health. Dental hygienist must submit data to the Department of Health concerning patient demographics, treatment, reimbursement and referrals.

West Virginia 2008

Sec. 5-1-8.5

Public Health Dental Hygienist:

Dental hygienist may provide care in hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, jails, community clinics, long-term care facilities, nursing homes, home health agencies, group homes, state institutions under the Department of Health and Human Resources, public health facilities, homebound settings and accredited dental hygiene education programs. Dentist must authorize dental hygienist to provide care but need not be present or have previously seen patient.

Requirements: Dental hygienist must have 2 years and 3,000 hours of clinical experience and take six additional continuing education hours. Dental hygienist and dentist must submit annual written report of care to state board of dental examiners.

Provider Services: Dental hygienist can provide patient education, nutritional counseling, oral screening with referral to dentist, apply fluoride, sealants, and offer a complete prophylaxis (pursuant to a collaborative agreement or written order.)

Wisconsin 2007

Sec. 447.06

The statute does not require the presence or supervision of a dentist in a public or private school, a dental or dental hygiene school or a facility owned by a local health department.

Requirements: None

**Provider Services:* Dental hygienist can provide prophylaxis, root planing, screening, treatment planning, sealants and delegable duties.

This document is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute a legal opinion regarding dental practice in any state. To verify any information, please contact your state's dental board.