

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES that can be delegated to Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants

Please note that this summary is provided for information only. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the information contained herein is made available to the public for informational purposes only. No legal liability or responsibility is assumed for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information presented. Please refer to the Dental Practice Act statutes and regulations as well as legal counsel of your own choosing for further guidance.

I. PRIVATE DENTAL OFFICE under DIRECT SUPERVISION

Direct Supervision means that a dentist is in the dental office, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure, and before the dismissal of the patient, evaluates the performance of the auxiliary. This requirement does not mandate that a dentist be present at all times, but he or she must be on the premises actually involved in supervision and control. **40-15-85(1)**.

Authorized means the supervising dentist in a private office setting has personally approved the procedures to be performed and is responsible for the care provided to the patient. **40-15-102(A)**.

Procedure	Dental Hygienist	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Dental Assistant
Assist in basic supportive chairside procedures	√	√	√
Chart existing restorations, clinically missing teeth, and appliances within the oral cavity	√	√	√
Apply topical drugs as prescribed by the Board	√	√	√
Place and remove rubber dam	√	√	√
Place and remove matrix	√	√	√
Place and remove orthodontic ligatures	√	√	√
Take and record vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, etc.)	√	√	√
Expose radiographs upon completion of Board-approved radiation safety course	√	√	√
Place and remove periodontal packs	√	√	√
Remove sutures	√	√	√
Take impressions for study models	√	√	
Place and remove socket dressing	√	√	
Place gingival retraction cord	√	√	
Place temporary restorations	√	√	
Cement temporary crowns or bridges	√	√	
Remove excess cement from restorations and/or appliances	√	√	
Polish restorations and supragingival tooth structure	√	√	
Application of pit and fissure sealant	√	√	
Monitor nitrous oxide conscious sedation upon certification by the Board	√	√	
Administration of local infiltration anesthesia upon certification by the Board	√		
Complete prophylaxis to include scaling, root planning, performing clinical examination	√		
Oral hygiene and instruction	√	√	√
<i>The procedures listed below are authorized / not authorized in accordance with Board policies:</i>			
Dental hygienists and dental assistants are <u>not</u> authorized to establish an IV line. They are <u>not</u> authorized to draw sedative drugs into a syringe, <u>nor</u> are they authorized to deliver drugs into an established IV line. Board policy adopted 10/31/08.			
Perform isolation and clean-up procedures related to laser bleaching of teeth in dental office. Board policy adopted 6/24/01.	√	√	√
Licensed dental hygienists are authorized to place subgingival therapeutic chemicals (i.e., Actisite, Perio chip, Atridox, etc.) at the direction and under the direct supervision of a practicing licensed dentist upon completion of a minimum one-hour training session as recommended by the manufacturer. Dental assistants and expanded duty dental assistants are <u>not</u> authorized to place subgingival therapeutic chemicals. Board policy adopted 10/31/08.	√		
Dental hygienists and dental assistants are <u>not</u> authorized to perform botox injections. Board policy adopted 4/01/09.			
Intra-oral camera (does not include scanner for final impressions)	√		

Dental Assistant - No formal academic dental training is required for dental assistants. **Reg. 39-12.**

Expanded Duty Dental Assistant - a dental assistant who is a graduate of an ADA accredited dental assisting program, or one who has completed two (2) years of continuous full-time employment as a chairside dental assistant. **Reg. 39-13.**

Dental Hygienist – one who engages in those clinical procedures primarily concerned with the performance of preventive dental services not constituting the practice of dentistry, including removing all hard and soft deposits and stains from the surfaces of human teeth, root planning, performing clinical examination of teeth and surrounding tissues, and charting of oral conditions for diagnosis by a dentist, and performing such other procedures as may be delegated by regulations of the Board. **40-15-80(A)**.

Oral prophylaxis means the removal of any and all hard and soft deposits, accretions, toxins, and stain from any natural or restored surfaces of teeth or prosthetic devices by scaling and polishing as a preventive measure for the control of local irritational factors. **40-15-85(3)**.

Monitor Nitrous Oxide Conscious Sedation – carrying out orders of the dentist, including initiation of flow of nitrous oxide component. Auxiliary may then maintain that flow or decrease the level of nitrous oxide when oxygenating patient, without specific direction of dentist. The dentist must determine need and level of nitrous oxide sedation regarding a particular patient. **Board Policy adopted 6/24/01**.

II. PRIVATE DENTAL OFFICE under GENERAL SUPERVISION with authorization by supervising dentist.

In a private dental office setting, a dental hygienist may only perform the following functions under general supervision: (1) oral prophylaxis and assessment; (2) fluoride treatment; (3) oral hygiene instruction and education; (4) exposure and process of radiographs as directed by standard office protocol. **40-15-102(B)**.

A dentist in a private office setting may authorize general supervision only upon meeting the following criteria: (1) A new patient of record must be clinically examined by the authorizing dentist during the initial visit; 2) An appointed patient must be examined by the authorizing dentist at a minimum of twelve (12) month intervals; and 3) An appointed patient must be notified in advance of the appointment that he/she will be treated by the dental hygienist under general supervision without authorizing dentist being present or being examined by the authorizing dentist. **40-15-102(C)**.

General Supervision means that a licensed dentist or the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's public health dentist has authorized the procedures to be performed but does not require that a dentist be present when the procedures are performed. **40-15-85(2)**.

Authorized means the supervising dentist in a private office setting has personally approved the procedures to be performed and is responsible for the care provided to the patient. **40-15-102(A)**.

Procedure	Dental Hygienist	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Dental Assistant
Oral prophylaxis and assessment	√		
Fluoride treatment	√		
Exposure and process of radiographs as directed by standard office protocol	√		
Oral hygiene instruction and education, perform oral screenings, and provide nutrition and dietary counseling <i>without prior authorization</i>	√		
Intra-oral camera (does not include scanner for final impressions)	√		

III. SCHOOL SETTINGS under GENERAL SUPERVISION and written permission of student's parent/guardian [unless the dentist or dental hygienist is working in a public health setting with DHEC]

In school settings, licensed dental hygienists may apply topical fluoride and may perform the application of sealants and oral prophylaxis under general supervision, with written permission of the student's parent or guardian. **40-15-80(B)**.

A dentist authorizing treatment by a dental hygienist in school settings or nursing home settings is subject to the general supervision restrictions provided for in this section unless the dentist or dental hygienist is working in a public health setting with the Department of Health and Environmental Control, as provided for in Section 40-15-110. **40-15-102(D)**.

Procedure	Dental Hygienist	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Dental Assistant
Apply topical fluoride	√		
Perform application of sealants	√		
Oral prophylaxis	√		
Exposure and process of radiographs as directed by standard office protocol.	√		

IV. HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES
under GENERAL SUPERVISION and provided medical emergency care is available within the facility
unless the dentist or dental hygienist is working in a public health setting with DHEC]

In hospitals, nursing homes, long term care facilities, rural and community clinics, health facilities operated by federal, state, county, or local governments, hospices, education institutions accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation that give instruction in dental hygiene, and in bona fide charitable institutions, licensed dental hygienists may apply topical fluoride and perform the application of sealants and oral prophylaxis under general supervision. Treatment may not occur in these settings unless medical emergency care is available within the facility. **40-15-80(C).**

A dentist authorizing treatment by a dental hygienist in school settings or nursing home settings is subject to the general supervision restrictions provided for in this section unless the dentist or dental hygienist is working in a public health setting with the Department of Health and Environmental Control, as provided for in Section 40-15-110. **40-15-102(D).**

General Supervision means that a licensed dentist or the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's public health dentist has authorized the procedures to be performed but does not require that a dentist be present when the procedures are performed. **40-15-85(2).**

Procedure	Dental Hygienist	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Dental Assistant
Apply topical fluoride	√		
Perform application of sealants	√		
Oral prophylaxis	√		
Exposure and process of radiographs as directed by standard office protocol.	√		

V. PUBLIC HEALTH SETTINGS WORKING WITH DHEC

Examination of patient is not required.

Services are to be performed under the direction of DHEC State Dental Coordinator or the Department's designee but do not require the coordinator be present when the services are performed.

Public Health Setting - defined as a hospital, nursing home, long term care facility, rural or community health clinic, health facility operated by federal, state, county, or local governments, hospice, an education institution, a bona fide charitable institution, or a mobile delivery program operated in one of these settings under the direction of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Mobile delivery programs are defined as those that are not confined to a single building and can be transported from place to place. **40-15-110(E).**

Public Health Dental Program Services – includes oral screenings using a DHEC-approved screening system, oral prophylaxis, application of topical fluoride including varnish, and the application of dental sealants. **40-15-110(A)(10).**

Procedure	Dental Hygienist	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Dental Assistant
Oral prophylaxis and assessment.	√		
Application of topical fluoride including varnish.	√	√	√
Exposure and process of radiographs as directed by standard office protocol.	√		
Application of dental sealants	√		
Oral screenings using DHEC approved screening system.	√	√	√
Assist in the delivery of public health dental program services as defined in 40-15-110(E): oral screenings using DHEC approved screening system, oral prophylaxis, application of topical fluoride including varnish, and application of dental sealants. 40-15-110(G)	√	√	√
Perform other duties authorized by regulations of the State Board of Dentistry.	√	√	√

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