

POLICY DEFINITIONS

Accreditation: a formal process establishing a minimum set of national standards which promote and assure quality in educational institutions and programs, serving as a mechanism to protect the public. (HOD 10-00)

Accredited Dental Hygiene Program: a dental hygiene program that achieves or exceeds the established minimum standards set by a United States Department of Education (USDOE) recognized regional accrediting agency and the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The curriculum, a minimum of two years, shall be at the appropriate level to enable matriculation to a baccalaureate, masters, or doctorate degree program.

The program shall also:

- award a minimum of an associate's level degree, the credits of which are transferable to a four year institution and applicable to a baccalaureate degree.
- retain control of curricular and clinical components include at least two academic years of full time instruction or its equivalent in academic credits earned at a post secondary college level.
- encompass both liberal arts and dental hygiene science course work sufficient to prepare the practitioner to assume licensure in any jurisdiction. (HOD 09-00)

Advanced Practice Dental Hygiene: Provision of clinical and diagnostic services in addition to those services permitted by an entry level dental hygienist, including services that require advanced clinical decision making, judgment and problem solving. Completion of a clinical and academic educational program beyond the first professional degree required for entry level licensure which qualifies the dental hygienist to provide advanced practice services and includes preparation to practice in direct access settings and collaborative relationships. Documentation of proficiency such as a professional certification. (HOD 11-13)

Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner: (amending HOD 01-04) A dental hygienist who has completed an advanced, graduate level curriculum that allows for the acquisition of competencies that 1.) build upon the fundamental knowledge and skills achieved at the entry level 2.) prepares individuals for a level of evidenced-based clinical decision-making and scope of practice and responsibility required of the advanced practitioner. (HOD 04-15)

Assessment: A clinical evaluation performed by a dental hygienist to identify signs of oral or systemic disease, malformation or injury and the need for referral for examination, diagnosis and treatment. (HOD 12A-14)

At-Risk Population: a community or group of people whose social or physical determinants, environmental factors, or personal behaviors increase their probability of developing disease. (HOD 04-11)

Care coordination: Person- centered actions designed to connect the person, caregivers, care team, providers, and specialists to share information and create strategies to meet the needs of the person. (HOD 03-21)

Collaborative Practice: a cooperative working relationship with other health care providers in the provision of patient care. (HOD 05-11)

Community outreach: Efforts to connect populations to resources, information, treatment, and referrals. (HOD 04-21)

Credentialing: the process by which an authorized and qualified entity evaluates competence and grants the formal recognition to, or records the recognition status of, an individual that meets predetermined and standardized criteria. (HOD 13-07)

Cultural Competence: awareness of cultural difference among all populations, respect of those differences and application of that knowledge to professional practice. (HOD 14-07)

Cultural Humility: A process of reflection and lifelong exploring that involves self-awareness of personal biases and sensitivity to cultural differences. (HOD 03-23)

Dental Home: a relationship between a person and a specific team of health professionals, led by a dental hygienist or a dentist. The dental home is an ongoing partnership that coordinates comprehensive, accessible and culturally sensitive care through delivery of oral health services as part of integrated health care. (HOD 03-09)

Dental Hygiene: (Amending HOD 06-10 and HOD 15-94) The science and practice of the recognition, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions as an integral component of optimal health. This includes the Dental Hygiene Process of care; the profession of the dental hygienist. (HOD 03-14)

Dental Hygienist: (rescinding HOD 03-08 and HOD 16-94) A primary care oral health professional licensed in dental hygiene who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program. (HOD 04-14)

Dental Hygiene Process of Care: Assessment, Diagnosis, Planning, Implementation, Evaluation, Documentation (HOD 10-10)

Dental Public Health Setting: any setting where population-based, community-focused oral health interventions are assessed, implemented, and evaluated as a means to prevent or control disease. (HOD 11-11)

Dental Triage: the screening of patients/clients to determine the priority of treatment needs. (HOD 05-05)

Diagnosis: The identification of an individual's health behaviors, attitudes, and oral health care needs for which a dental hygienist is educationally qualified and licensed to provide. The dental hygiene diagnosis requires evidence-based critical analysis and interpretation of assessments in order to reach conclusions about the patient's dental hygiene treatment needs. The dental hygiene diagnosis provides the basis for the dental hygiene care plan. (HOD 01-14)

Direct Access: 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. (HOD 09-15)

Direct Payment: payment made directly to the provider without sending it through an intermediary or a third party. (HOD 06-11)

Diversity: (Amending HOD 08-11) The characteristics and background that make people unique. (HOD 07-21)

Documentation: The complete and accurate recording of all collected data and other information relevant to patient care and treatment. (ADHA Standards of Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice – SCDHP) (HOD 14-16)

Evaluation: The measurement of the extent to which the patient has achieved the goals specified in the dental hygiene care plan; used to make evidenced-based decisions regarding patient care. (HOD 05-14)

Evidence-based: derived from peer-reviewed scientific literature. (HOD 15-16)

Evidence-based practice: the “conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of the current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual clients. The practice of evidence-based dental hygiene requires the integration of individual clinical expertise and client preferences with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research.” (HOD 08-07)

Health Equity: (amend HOD 12-16) Health Equity: All people having access to education, opportunities, and resources that empower them to obtain the best health possible. (07-23)

Health Literacy: The capacity for an individual to obtain, process and communicate his or her understanding of basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. (HOD 13-12)

Inclusion: The act of ensuring all people feel welcome, safe, and empowered to contribute, influence, and participate.(HOD 08-21)

Implementation: The delivery of dental hygiene services based on the dental hygiene care plan in manner of minimizing risk and optimizing oral health. (HOD 14-16)

Independent Practitioner: (rescinding HOD 04-03) A dental hygienist who provides dental hygiene services to the public through direct agreement with each client. (HOD 01-13)

Interdisciplinary Care: Two or more healthcare providers working within their respective disciplines who collaborate with the patient and/or caregiver to develop and implement a care plan. (HOD 20-10)

Interprofessional Education: collaboration of two or more professionals learning about, from and with each other to improve health outcomes (HOD 13-16)

Interprofessional Collaboration: Healthcare professionals from various disciplines who use evidence-based practices to work together to achieve a common goal. (HOD 15-21)

Intraprofessional Collaboration: Healthcare professionals within the same discipline who use evidence-based practices to work together to achieve a common goal. (HOD 14-21)

Linguistic Competence: the capacity to communicate effectively and respond appropriately to the health literacy needs of all populations. (HOD 15-07)

Mid-Level Oral Health Practitioner: A dental hygienist who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and who provides primary oral health care directly to patients to promote and restore oral health through the dental hygiene process of care and referral services. The Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner has met the educational requirements to provide services within an expanded scope of care and practices under regulations set forth by the appropriate licensing agency. (HOD 21-10)

Needs Assessment: (Amending HOD 10-11) A systematic process used to establish priorities for future action using the dental hygiene process of care. (HOD 02-14)

Optimal health: as a standard of health of the oral cavity and related tissues which enables an individual to eat, speak, and socialize without active disease, discomfort, or embarrassment, and which contributes to general well being and overall total health. (HOD 15-99)

Oral Health Equity Framework: A tool that provides resources and assistance to achieve successful health outcomes for all populations. (HOD 11-21)

Oral Prophylaxis: The sub and supragingival removal of biofilm, calculus, and extrinsic stains from the anatomical crowns of teeth and prosthetic structures, to preserve health and prevent disease. (HOD 01-19)

Perinatal: The period of time before conception and continuing until the infant is 36 months of age. (HOD 06-13)

Planning: The establishment of realistic goals and the selection of dental hygiene interventions aimed at the patient achieving optimal health. (HOD 14-16)

Preventive: adjective

Preventative: noun

Example "Airbags act as a preventive measure (adjective describing the noun) for automobile accident fatalities. Indeed, they are a common preventative (noun). (HOD 01-09)

Primary Dental Hygiene Care Provider: The dental hygienist is a primary care oral health professional who administers a range of services which are defined by a scope, characteristics and integration of care. (HOD 06-14)

- **Scope of Primary Care:** Consists of the assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation and documentation of procedures for promoting the highest level of health possible to the patient.
- **Characteristics of Primary Care:** First contact for care is initiated by the patient or other person who assumes responsibility for the patient and takes place in a variety of practice settings.
- **Integration of Primary Care:** Providers serve as the entry and control point linking the patient to total health care systems by providing coordination with other specialized health or social services to ensure that the patient receives comprehensive and continuous care at a single point in time, as well as over a period of time.

Self-Regulation: (Amending HOD 10-01 and HOD 12-00) Governance of the practice of dental hygiene by licensed dental hygienists, who are authorized by state government to define the

dental hygiene scope of practice, set educational and licensure standards, and to govern and discipline dental hygienists. (HOD 13-14)

Social determinants of health: Conditions in a person's environment that affect a wide range of health, function, and quality-of-life outcomes. (HOD 05-21)

Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSB's): Any liquids that are sweetened with various forms of added sugars. (HOD 02-19)

Professional Autonomy: A profession's authority and responsibility for its own standards of education, regulation, practice, licensure, and discipline. (HOD 12-10)

Profession of the dental hygienist: the science and practice of the recognition, treatment, and education directed toward prevention of oral diseases and the advancement of oral health. (HOD 10-06)

Reimbursement payment: of monies by an intermediary or a third party made to the beneficiary for services rendered. (HOD 13-11)

Social Media: Interactive web based platforms where users in virtual communities create and share user generated communications. (HOD 03-13)

Third Party Payment: payment by someone other than the beneficiary for services rendered. (HOD 12-11)

White paper: an authoritative report or guide that provides information about emerging knowledge and issues on a specific topic.

Position paper: a written document that summarizes the organization's viewpoint on a specific topic which includes supporting research. The purpose is to communicate to members and external audiences. (HOD 07-09)

**These three policies (13-90, 14-90, 9-90) were all amended by deletion of all reference to CODA. Original action numbers appear rather than listing three separate policies with the same number. REVISED 10.24.23

