

Current Issues in Dental Hygiene

Preparing Prospective Dental Hygiene Staff
“Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies”

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Introduction

- Scopes of practice for health professionals are defined in states' laws and regulations, describing allowable services, settings and supervisory requirements.
- Professional scope of practice means professional competence in which describes the service area that a hygienist provider is trained and competent to accomplish.

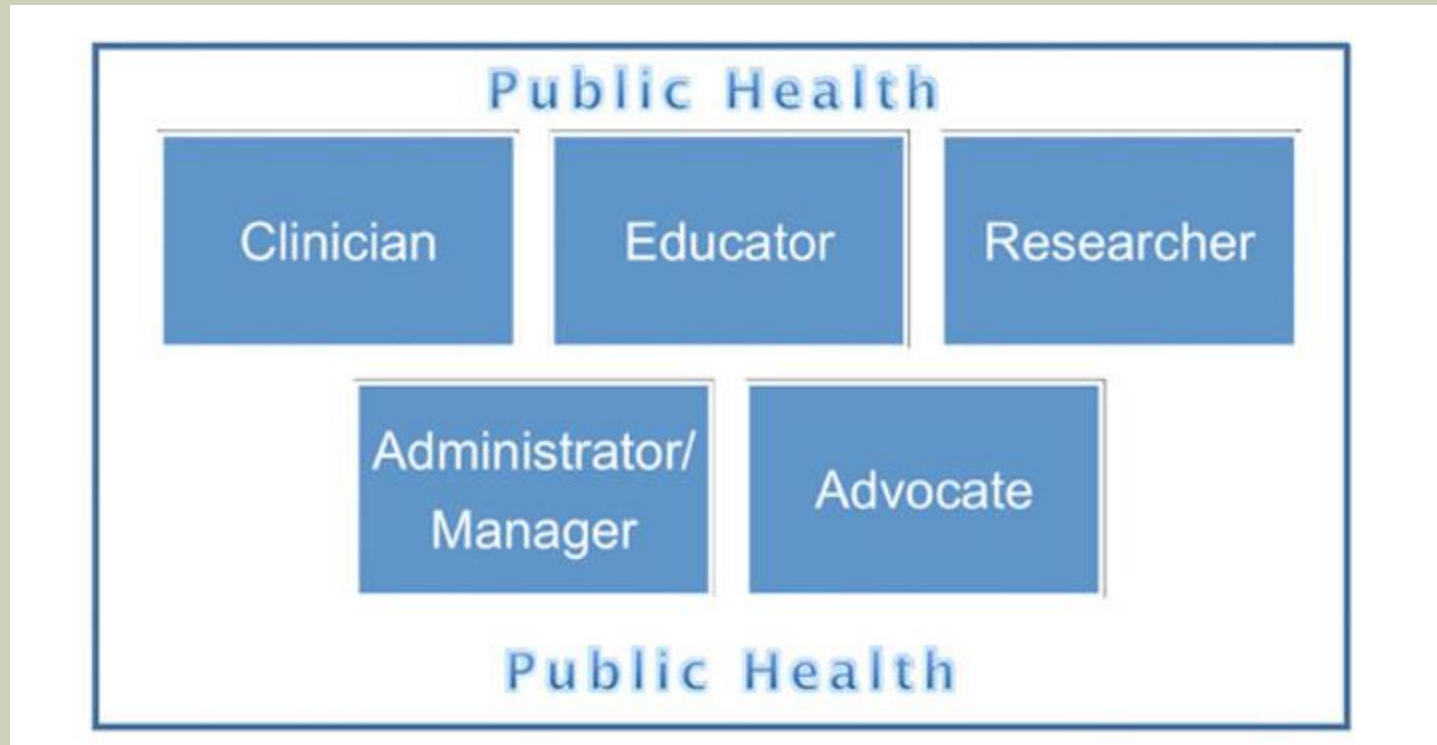
Purpose of Topic Presentation

1. Examine some of the forces that may shape the scope of practice of dental hygiene at various healthcare settings.
2. Deliberate future roles for dental hygienists; assess the strengths and weaknesses of current dental hygiene curriculum and educational knowledge, skills, and abilities.
3. Prepare dental hygienists to adopt broader roles in forthcoming healthcare delivery systems through implementing and applying necessary steps for successful changes.

Scope of Practice of the Dental Hygienist

- **Direct supervision** requires that a licensed dentist examine the patient, diagnose a condition to be treated, authorize the procedure to be performed, be on the premises while the procedure is performed, and approve the work performed prior to the patient's departure from the premises.
- **Indirect supervision** requires that a licensed dentist examine the patient, diagnose a condition to be treated, authorize the procedure to be performed, and be on the premises while the procedure is performed.
- **General Supervision** the dentist is required to authorize the administration of the local anesthesia by the dental hygiene, **but is not required** to be on the premises during the procedure.

Professional Roles of the Dental Hygiene Provider



<https://www.dentistryiq.com/dental-hygiene/clinical-hygiene/article/16359746/the-role-of-dental-hygienists-in-providing-access-to-oral-health-care-are-you-in-charge-of-your-future>

Elements Influence on Future Dental hygiene Practice

- ❖ State and Accreditation Regulations
- ❖ Healthcare System & Public Health Policies
- ❖ Finances
- ❖ School Curriculum Limitations
- ❖ Cultural Belief

<http://www.cshp.rutgers.edu/Downloads/8880.pdf>

Elements Influence on Future Dental hygiene Practice

State and Accreditation Regulations

- Dental hygiene practice is regulated at the state level through roles and regulations set forth by State Board of Dentistry.
- There is substantial discrepancies across states in scope of practice of the dental hygiene profession.

<http://www.oralhealthworkforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/062017c.pdf>



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS



New Jersey State
Board of Dentistry

New Jersey State Board of Dentistry

13:30-1A.3: SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENIST UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION (Chapter 30, P 10-24)

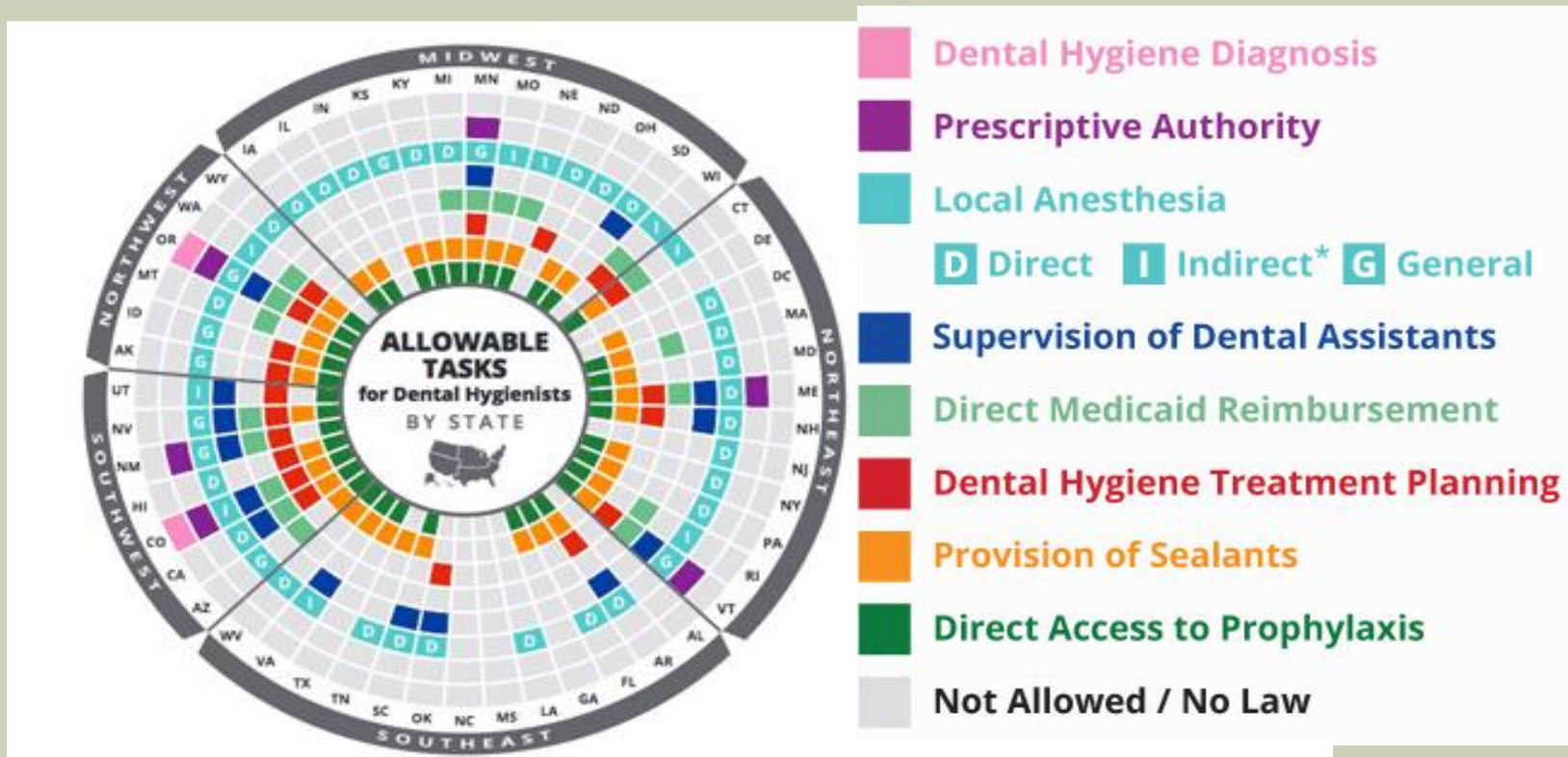
13:30-1A.4: SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENIST UNDER GENERAL SUPERVISION

13:30-1A.5: ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ANESTHESIA BY LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS

<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/regulations/Chapter-30-New-Jersey-Board-of-Dentistry.pdf>

Elements Influence on Future Dental hygiene Practice

Variation in Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice by States



Retrieved from <https://www.albany.edu/news/80254.php>

Dental Hygiene Diagnosis

The identification of oral conditions for which treatment falls within the dental hygiene scope of practice, as part of a dental hygiene treatment plan.




Prescriptive Authority

The ability to prescribe, administer, and dispense fluoride, topical medications, and chlorhexidine.

Local Anesthesia

The administration of local anesthesia.

LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

-  **Direct:** The dentist is required to be physically present during the administration of local anesthesia by the dental hygienist.
-  **Indirect:** The dentist is required to be on the premises during the administration of local anesthesia by the dental hygienist.*
-  **General:** The dentist is required to authorize the administration of local anesthesia by the dental hygienist but is not required to be on the premises during the procedure.

Supervision of Dental Assistants

The ability to supervise dental assistants when performing tasks within the dental hygiene scope of practice.

Direct Medicaid Reimbursement

The direct Medicaid reimbursement of dental hygiene services to the dental hygienist.

Dental Hygiene Treatment Planning

The ability of a dental hygienist to assess oral conditions and formulate treatment plans for services within the dental hygiene scope of practice.

Provision of Sealants Without Prior Examination

The ability of a dental hygienist working in a public health setting to provide sealants without prior examination by a dentist.

Direct Access to Prophylaxis from a Dental Hygienist

The ability of a dental hygienist working in a public health setting to provide prophylaxis without prior examination by a dentist.

Not Allowed / No Law

Elements Influence on Future Dental hygiene Practice

Healthcare System & Public Health Policies

Public Health Policies Variation across the States

- Allowed dental hygiene tasks versus restrictive policies
- Interrelated hygiene scope of practice and oral health outcomes
- Raising healthcare expenses

Variation of Scope of Practice of the dental Hygienist Among the States

Examples

- **Colorado**, own practice, prescribe, and administer
- **Nebraska**, perform certain restorative procedures
- **Iowa**, provide unsupervised educational services
- **Georgia**, provide certain services
- **Arizona**, provide services without the presence of a dentist. Finally
- **Washington state**, dental health aide therapists in tribal settings
- **Minnesota**, prescribe analgesics, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics
- **Texas**, provide services for up to six months without dentist seeing the patient.
- **Florida**, provide services in health access settings without dentist presences
- **Oregon** is leading the way in sustainable innovations to improve oral health outcomes.

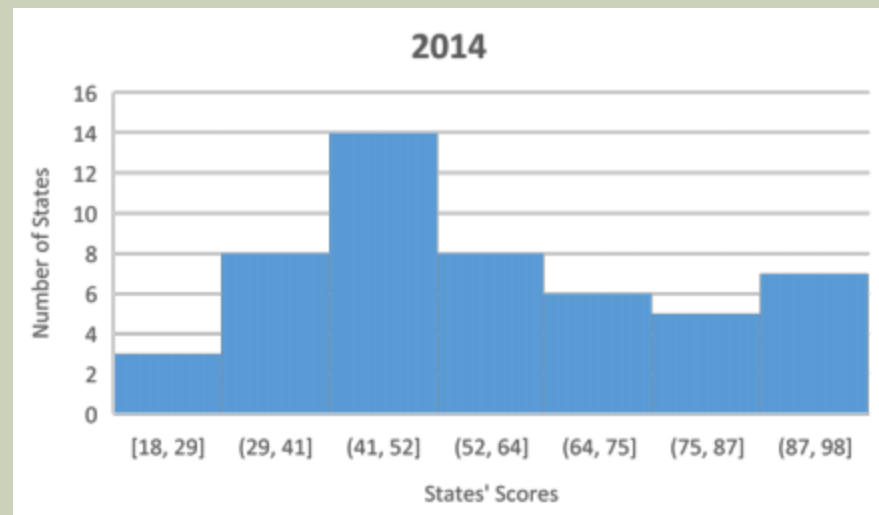
Impact of the expanded Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice

Oral health & Outcomes

- **Colorado:** fixed clinic and mobile van
- California and Oregon: using teledentistry applications
- Minnesota & Vermont: Advanced dental therapists
- Pennsylvania: dental hygiene coordinator
- New Hampshire: Dental Hygiene public health worker
- Nevada and South Carolina : Dental hygienist entrepreneurs



- High scoring states in 2014 were also high scoring on the new index (e.g., ME, CO, CA, WA, NM were each classified as excellent environments at each scoring).
- Some states were innovators in expanding practice opportunities through creating a new dental hygiene therapy models ; MN, VT.



<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-12-scopes-dental-hygienists-oral-health.html>

<https://www.astho.org/StatePublicHealth/Scope-of-Practice-for-Dental-Hygienists-and-Dental-Therapists/6/01/17/>

Elements Influence on Future Dental hygiene Practice

Finances

- According to a recent report by the American Student Dental Association (ASDA, 2017), **47 million** Americans had barriers to accessing health. For instance, more than **16.5 million** children in the United States were not taken to a dentist (ASDA, 2017).

Obstacles & Limitations

- Lack of insurance
- Living in low socio-economic levels
- Unemployment, or having limited benefits through federally-funded programs such as Medicaid and CHIP



Elements Influence on Future Dental hygiene Practice

School Curriculum Limitations

- Dental hygiene Curriculum is regulated nationally through the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) .
- Changing current dental hygiene curricula is essential to prepare the future dental hygiene workforce.
- Develop new standards that are in alignment with future needs.



Curricula Discrepancies & Suggestions for Change

- Lack of all significant content areas
- No differentiations with CODA Standards
- Overload educational materials within limited length of AAS programs.



Curricula Discrepancies & Suggestions for Change

- Change of the current CODA standards for dental hygiene education programs.
- Building dental hygiene programs that require and promote various community-outreach activities as a part of the dental hygiene curricula of teaching and learning accomplishments.
- Recognizing of the role of the dental hygienist as a primary care promotor and educator and this role must be knotted during the course of dental hygiene teaching experiences.

Curricula Discrepancies & Suggestions for Change

- More knowledge in public health administration.
- Developing collaborative skills
- Alignment of DH curriculum with Technologies; teledentsistry



Curricula Discrepancies & Suggestions for Change

- There is a need to develop dental hygiene curricula based on different scope of practices; dental hygienists could obtain certifications in pediatrics, geriatrics, or clinical leadership upon completion dual degree programs.
- Dental hygiene scope of practice can be enhanced and also interweaved with numerous health care programs, dental hygiene curricula could include combined classes for didactic and experiential learning in nursing; collecting vital signs, assessing heights, and providing health nutrition education and consulting advises to promote optimal oral health.
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Curricula Discrepancies & Suggestions for Change

Associate versus Baccalaureate hygiene programs?



- According to the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), the bachelor's degree represents the necessary credential for employment opportunities beyond traditional clinical practice. It is important to note that dental hygienists across the nation are employed in various roles within the profession of dental hygiene, many of which require the bachelor's degree as a minimum qualification.
- In addition, there is a national call for the strengthening of the oral health workforce at all levels. This approach outlined by the American Dental Association to increase access to care is to expand employment opportunities within the area of oral health care to include such positions as community dental health coordinator, advance practice dental hygienist, dental therapist, and dental health aid.

Importance of Evidence-based Practice

Changing Oral Health workforce

- Increasing emphasis on improving oral health literacy
- Focus on prevention and early intervention in disease process
- Improving our healthcare system settings through:
 - Uses of diagnostic codes
 - Integration of electronic dental records
 - Utilizing various healthcare delivery methods;
Mobile and portable dentistry

Importance of Expanding the Scope of the Hygienist Practice

- To expand and increase healthcare access to various preventive oral care services.
- To provide high quality, cost-effective care •
- To improve overall individual health.

Innovative Healthcare Model

- Expansion of roles for existing workforce
- New workforce models
- Advancements in scope of practice



Conclusion

Public health leaders and policy makers and all other academic groups; students, faculty, and healthcare educators should join forces to inform the public about oral health and the important roles of dental hygienists and also to support challenges to restrictive practice acts and an expanded scope of practice for the dental hygiene profession.

Urgent Urgent Urgent

On ADHA website

Today, (Sep 12, 2019) the **Maryland Board of Dental Examiners** voted and passed on a motion to allow **dental hygienists** the **ability to perform HIV testing** and perform glucose testing/monitoring on patients. The dental professional duties chart will be updated to reflect these changes and waivers may be needed in order to perform these procedures.

- **OraQuick test:** swab of saliva from the gum



References

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-12-scopes-dental-hygienists-oral-health.html>

<https://www.astho.org/StatePublicHealth/Scope-of-Practice-for-Dental-Hygienists-and-Dental-Therapists/6/01/17/>

<https://www.albany.edu/news/80254.php>

<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/regulations/Chapter-30-New-Jersey-Board-of-Dentistry.pdf>

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Thank you for your attention

Questions

