

<p>POLICY NUMBER <b>B-503</b></p>	<p>POLICY TITLE: <b>Policy Regarding Treatment Within the Scope of Dental Hygiene Practice</b></p>
	<p>RELATES TO: DENTAL HYGIENE SCOPE OF PRACTICE</p>
<p>EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>December 6, 2017</b></p> <p>NEXT REVIEW DATE: <b>December 2022</b></p>	<p><u>LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS</u></p>

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**I. Purpose**

The Ohio State Dental Board (Board) is committed to ensuring the safe practice of dentistry to the public. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Board's position regarding the development of technologies and techniques dental hygienists may utilize and their relationship to scope of practice.

**Legal Authority**

- O.R.C. 4715.01 Dentists – dental hygienist definitions
- O.R.C. 4715.23 Practice limitations.
- O.A.C. 4715-9-01 Permissible practices of a dental hygienist.

## **Education and Training**

O.R.C. 4715.21 License application.

O.A.C. 4715-9-03 Requirements for initial licensure for dental hygienists.

## **II. Applicability**

The policy applies to the treatment within scope of dental practice for licensed dentists and dental hygienists.

## **III. Definitions**

Dental hygienist The American Dental Association (ADA) defines the profession of dental hygiene as, including but not limited to:

- Patient screening procedures; such as assessment of oral health conditions, review of the health history, oral cancer screening, head and neck inspection, dental charting and taking blood pressure and pulse
- Taking and developing dental radiographs (x-rays)
- Removing calculus and plaque (hard and soft deposits) from all surfaces of the teeth
- Applying preventive materials to the teeth (e.g., sealants and fluorides)
- Teaching patients appropriate oral hygiene strategies to maintain oral health; (e.g., tooth brushing, flossing and nutritional counseling)
- Counseling patients about good nutrition and its impact on oral health
- Making impressions of patients' teeth for study casts (models of teeth used by dentists to evaluate patient treatment needs)
- Performing documentation and office management activities

## **IV. Procedure**

Using these definitions, the Board considers available scientific evidence, educational requirements of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental hygiene programs and peer reviewed accredited educational programs consistent with an evidenced based approach to dentistry, to aid in its determination of the scope of dental hygiene practice.

The ADA has a code of ethical and professional conduct for the practice of dentistry. The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) has the Bylaws & Code of Ethical Conduct which governs the conduct of dental hygiene membership. All dentists and dental hygienists must be aware of their own limitations and level of training in determining their individual competence levels within the scope of practice of dentistry and dental hygiene. Using these bylaw and ethical and professional standards each dental hygienist chooses how to practice dental hygiene. The expectation, for all patients, is the dental hygienist is competent in providing adequate and appropriate treatment.

## **V. Attachments**

- Form: Permissible Practices Documentation for Dental Hygienists

- The ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, November 2016
- The ADHA Bylaw and Code of Ethics, June 13, 2016

**VI. Monitoring**

The supervisory staff overseeing the daily practices of the procedures contained within this policy shall utilize quality tools and instruments to ensure compliance.

An interdisciplinary team comprised of the Director, Deputy Director, and Policy Committee of the Board, shall meet as needed throughout the year to review policies and procedures and integrate collaborative services. Assigned designees may represent each of these respective disciplines. All policies must be documented as an official review in the policy database on an annual basis.

Each year, the policy design team shall review the quality assurance data and results derived from audit reports, quality tools and instruments, legal or investigatory measures, and interdisciplinary team meeting summaries and/or actions, and incorporate the findings and other improvement recommendations as revisions to the current policies and procedures or develop new policies when necessary.

**VI. Training**

This revised policy requires staff education or training prior to policy implementation.

**VII. References**

O.R.C. 4715.01	Dentists – dental hygienist definitions
O.R.C. 4715.21	License application.
O.R.C. 4715.23	Practice limitations.
O.A.C. 4715-9-01	Permissible practices of a dental hygienist.
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