



Registered Dental Hygienist Job Responsibilities

Dental hygienists provide dental hygiene treatment and information related to the prevention of diseases and disorders of the teeth and mouth. Demonstrate cleaning techniques as well as perform various cleaning and protective measures using particular instruments and decay preventive agents. Creation and maintenance of accurate dental records for patients, creation of impression casts, assist with the training and orientation of new staff and will expose and develop x-ray film.

Core Competencies

- Time management
- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Operating equipment
- Ethics and integrity
- Accountability and dependability
- Providing consultation
- Research and analysis
- Mediating and negotiating
- Planning and organizing
- Coaching and mentoring
- Creating and innovative thinking
- Developmental and ongoing learning
- Enforcing laws, rules and regulations

Registered Dental Hygienist Job Duties

- Daily duties include removing plaque from and polishing a patient's teeth during a routine checkup
- Screening patients, reviewing patient's oral health history and teaching appropriate brushing and flossing techniques
- Use of X-ray machines to take pictures of the teeth and develop the film for the dentist's analysis
- Perform clinical treatments using established dental hygienist procedures



- Chart conditions of decay and diseases for diagnosis and treatment by dentist
- Remove sutures and dressings
- Place and remove rubber dams, matrices and temporary restorations

Make impressions for study casts

- Prepare patient care areas
- Prepare reports and assists with patient reception, telephone calls, routine triage, and other office duties
- Participate in meetings, providing input and suggestions
- Participate in continuing education activities as required
- Assist in orientation of new staff
- Administer local anaesthetic agents
- Feel lymph nodes under patient's chin to detect swelling or tenderness that could indicate presence of oral cancer

Requirements

- Graduate of an approved Dental Hygiene Program
- License to practice in Ontario
- CPR certification required
- Dental Radiology Licence preferred
- Minimum of two years work experience in dental healthcare preferred
- Ability to independently assess the nature and extent of dental periodontal and associated conditions and pathology in dental outpatients
- Knowledge of patient screening, charting, and medical history procedures and documentation
- Basic mathematical skills required
- Basic knowledge of medical terminology required
- Able to effectively communicate both verbally and in writing as well as technical information to patients and non-technical staff
- Ability to perform a full range of established dental hygienist protocol and procedures

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