

Class Code: 2150  
Occ. Area: 12  
Prob. Period: 6 mo.  
Prom. Line: None  
Work Area: 444  
Effective Date: 11/15/04

## **DENTAL HYGIENIST**

### Function of Job

To provide conventional preventive, therapeutic, and educational dental hygiene services for patients, including the examination of patients, removal of deposits and stains from teeth, application of localized medications, and preparation of impressions for study casts. A Dental Hygienist provides service in areas of patient care, clinic duties, and educational/supervisory functions.

1. A Dental Hygienist typically provides patient care services which include:
  - a. examines teeth and surrounding tissues for lesions, diseases, and other abnormal conditions
  - b. removes hard and soft deposits and stains from teeth
  - c. applies fluoride solutions to the teeth
  - d. administers prescribed medicaments and desensitizing agents to teeth and gums
  - e. applies pit and fissure sealants
  - f. makes impressions for study casts, model surgery; removes excess cement from surface of teeth
  - g. instructs and advises patients in oral hygiene care
  - h. places and removes temporary restorations
2. Other clinical duties performed by a Dental Hygienist include:
  - a. administers and controls the flow of nitrous oxide to a dental patient, and removes patient from nitrous oxide when the dental procedures have been completed
  - b. reads and operates emergency equipment; EKG, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure, O<sub>2</sub>, Nitrous Oxide
  - c. assists in maintaining a high level of asepsis in the clinic
  - d. exposes and processes dental radiographs: intraorals, panoramic, occlusal, cephalometric radiographs

- e. obtains and records basic medical and dental histories and information; updates patient appointment records; may record oral conditions observed
  - f. maintains current CPR certification
  - g. orders, secures, and maintains records of drugs for clinic; orders, receives and stores supplies and equipment
  - h. establishes and maintains an inventory control system of all dental materials, supplies, and equipment with integral use of computer software
3. Educational and supervisory functions performed by a Dental Hygienist include:
- a. conducts dental health education functions
  - b. acts as lead employee for dental assistants
  - c. evaluates dental students' knowledge and utilization of the skills and functions of the dental hygienist
  - d. assists in the orientation and training of new dental auxiliaries, such as dental assistant and hygienist students or other non DDS employees
4. performs other related duties as assigned

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

CREDENTIALS TO BE VERIFIED BY PLACEMENT OFFICER

- 1. Licensure as a Dental Hygienist in the State of Illinois
- 2. Current CPR Certification

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE JOB:

- 1. ability to deal effectively with others
- 2. ability to stand and work for long hours and in awkward positions
- 3. knowledge of aseptic techniques and sterilization procedures
- 4. knowledge of instruments and equipment employed for minor oral surgery procedures
- 5. knowledge of clinical concepts in a private office and/or dental institution
- 6. ability to effectively use computer software