

Dental Hygienist

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Positions in this banded class provide dental care and treatment to patients for initial therapy and/or recall according to the Dental Hygienist Practice Act. These positions work in a co-therapy role with the assigned Dentist. Work includes preparing the operator for patient treatment, obtaining patient charts, escorting patients from the waiting room, recording patient information, and scheduling additional appointments as needed. Work also involves exposing radiographs and monitoring supplies and materials. Work may involve recruitment, enrollment, consenting and collecting study samples for clinical trial participants.

EXAMPLES OF COMPETENCIES: CONTRIBUTING:

Knowledge-Professional: Knowledge of the principles, practices and regulations governing general dental hygiene. Knowledge of patient care protocols, medical guidelines and clinical procedures in general dental hygiene treatment. Knowledge of dental hygiene patient care practices and patient charting methods. Ability to keep current about new clinical treatments, techniques, and technologies in the field of dental hygiene.

Patient Care: Ability to perform patient services consistent with the Dental Hygiene Practice Act; ability to notify dentist when the patient is ready to be checked. Ability to educate the patient in proper oral hygiene and alternative treatment methods; ability to provide information about behavior modification programs; ability to communicate home care instructions so others will understand. May require ability to prepare the operator for patient treatment, including instrument set-ups, obtaining patient charts, cleaning and sterilization of dental instruments; ability to ensure appropriate stocking of all needed supplies and materials.

JOURNEY

Knowledge-Professional: Full knowledge of the principles, practices and regulations governing general dental hygiene and/or specialty areas of dentistry. Full knowledge of patient care protocols, medical guidelines and clinical procedures in general dental hygiene and/or an area of dental specialty. Full knowledge of patient care management and administer. Ability to apply continual learning of new clinical treatments, techniques, and technologies in the field of dental hygiene; ability to understand and apply new clinical treatments, techniques, and technologies as appropriate.

Patient Care: Ability to perform general and specialized patient services consistent with the Dental Hygiene Practice Act; ability to make appropriate referrals and completes charting. Ability to educate the patient in proper oral hygiene and alternative treatment methods; ability to discuss alternative treatments with other dental professionals.

Clinical Research: Ability to screen, enroll and consent patients for entry into research trial including the taking of patient history, review of medical record, assessment of medical history and functional status of the patient. Ability to provide patient care and follow-

Clinical Research: Ability to assist dental faculty in clinical research involving dental hygiene procedures, as requested.

Information/Records Administration: Ability to collect and record patient data; schedule additional appointments as needed. Ability to maintain accurate and timely patient information.

Instruction: Ability to communicate and disseminate dental health educational information. Ability to instruct the students of the School of Dentistry on role of dental hygienist as requested.

Program Coordination: Ability to plan work to meet program objectives and deadlines; ability to assess the needs and make changes in process, work flow and/or assignments. Ability to advise on and help evaluate procedures followed in the clinic.

Information/Records Administration: Ability to identify problems and opportunities to improve patient data collection. Ability to ensure accuracy and timely entry of patient information by dental assistants; ability to recommend improvements and changes in information/records administration.

Instruction: Ability to apply knowledge of educational theory and techniques in the field of dental health; ability to apply knowledge of display techniques and skill in the arrangement and operation of visual aids; ability to develop and disseminate dental health educational information. Ability to provide training, instruction and consultation to students of the School of Dentistry and other staff in dental hygiene procedures and techniques. Ability to assist the students of the School of Dentistry with the scheduling, screening and follow-up referral of patients; ability to track student work. Ability to prepare and deliver lectures and educational sessions on dental health education to various groups.

Program Coordination: Ability to establish goals and objectives of program(s), set and changes deadlines; ability to plan, assign and analyzes work of others;

up as delineated by the specific research protocol; ability to make adjustments in patient care to ensure proper treatment and compliance with research study protocols. Ability to provide instruction on clinical research studies and clinical trial protocols.

ADVANCED

Knowledge-Professional: Comprehensive knowledge of the principles, practices and regulations governing clinical dental hygiene in specialty care areas of dentistry. Comprehensive knowledge of patient care protocols, medical guidelines and clinical procedures in specialty areas and in advanced dental hygiene treatments. Considerable knowledge of proper patient care management and administrative standards as it pertains to clinical areas. Ability to apply continual learning of new clinical treatments, techniques and technologies in specialized areas and for high-risk patients.

Patient Care: Ability to perform specialized patient services consistent with the Dental Hygiene Practice Act in specialty care areas such as Pediatrics, Geriatrics and clinics in the hospital (operative); ability to perform services for high-risk patients. Ability to assist students in correctly assessing a problem or in completing the solution. May require ability to supervise students and/or staff. May require ability to advise on and help evaluate procedures followed in the clinic. Ability to educate the patient in proper oral hygiene and alternative treatment methods; ability to train students and staff in effective patient education methods; may require ability to develop educational materials. May require ability to purchase dental supplies and materials.

MINIMUM TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Licensed to practice as a Dental Hygienist in the State of North Carolina.

Special Note: This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to reflect essential functions per ADA. Examples of competencies are typical of the majority of positions, but may not be applicable to all positions.

ability to monitor performance. Ability to establish clinical and business procedures; ability to monitor effectiveness and quality; ability to make improvements as needed.

Clinical Research: Ability to educate potential patients before entry into research trial; may require ability to assist with research review, analysis and reporting. Ability to provide technical expertise for research design; may require ability to work directly with outside research agencies.

Instruction: Ability to instruct students of the School of Dentistry in proper utilization of the dental hygienist in private practice. Ability to monitor the performance of dental students; ability to report findings as needed. Ability to develop and design unit's patient education curriculum. Ability to provide education programs to specialized groups (nursing homes, in-patients; and outpatient clinics). Ability to provide outreach services to community groups (schools, senior citizens).

Program Coordination: Ability to design programs; ability to work with other departments and organizations to coordinate programs.