

Dental Hygienist

R74130

DESCRIPTION OF OCCUPATIONAL WORK

When authorized by and under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, performs preventative, therapeutic, or educational dental hygiene functions within the scope of licensure. Some positions may perform a limited scope of practice for the purposes of conducting public health-related services in a public health setting or in a health care or related facility with appropriate authorization from the State of Nebraska.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: (A position is assigned to this class based on the scope and level of work performed as outlined below.)

Positions in this class are distinguished from those in the Dental Assistant classification by the requirement to hold and maintain a State of Nebraska Dental Hygienist license.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Perform oral prophylaxis and coronal polishing; obtain radiographic exposures.

Apply topical subgingival agents; apply or administer antimicrobial rinses, fluorides, sealants or other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease.

Conduct and assess preliminary charting, probing, screening examinations, and indexing of dental and periodontal disease, with referral, when appropriate, for a dental diagnosis by a licensed dentist.

Assist a dentist in restorative or surgical work by preparing instruments, mixing materials, and aspirating the patient's mouth.

May perform preliminary charting and screening examinations; oral health education, including workshops and in-service training sessions on dental health; and all duties that a dental assistant who is not licensed is authorized to perform.

Obtain medical and dental histories of patients and maintains dental records for use by a dentist in diagnosing the patients' dental condition.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: the principles, techniques, terminology and practices of dental health and preventative clinical services; dental instruments, equipment and procedures; basic, social, dental and clinical sciences in the prevention and control of dental diseases; the methods and media used in health education.

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Ability to: apply knowledge of human behavior, basic principles of communication and basic theories of learning and educational methods in dental health; participate effectively in the team approach to dental and total health care; establish and maintain effective working relationships with students, employees and patients; explain the fundamentals of dental care and oral hygiene to patients; maintain records and prepare reports; handle dental instruments and materials carefully and safely; follow diagnosis and treatment plan described by a dentist.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Possess Nebraska license as a Dental Hygienist.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: (These qualifications are mandated by federal/state laws, statutes, and/or regulations.)

Licensure and authorization requirements pursuant to Nebraska State Statutes 38-1130 and 38-1131.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Some positions may require incumbent to possess a Public Health Authorization for Treating Children and Adults to perform public health-related duties.

State agencies are responsible to evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Established: January 5, 2022

Note: Classification-specification is subject to change. Please refer to the Nebraska State Personnel Job Specification website at <https://das.nebraska.gov/personnel/classcomp/jobspecs/jobspecs.html> to ensure this represents the most current copy of the description.

The following is a summary of changes made to this class specification.

Section	Change Description	Effective Date