

TITLE 16
California Code of Regulations
Professional and Vocational Regulations
Division 11
Dental Hygiene Committee of California

ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS

§1100. Definitions.

For purposes of this division:

(a) "Administration of local anesthesia" means the administration of local anesthetic agents by infiltration injection or conductive injection.

(b) "Administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen" means the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen when used as an analgesic during dental treatment.

(c) "Assessment" means the systematic collection, analysis, and documentation of the oral and general health status and patient needs through a variety of methods, including choice of radiographs, diagnostic tools, and instruments.

(d) "Basic supportive dental procedures" means fundamental duties or functions as referenced in California Code of Regulations Section 1067(l).

(e) "Committee office" means the Committee office located in Sacramento, California.

(f) "Executive Officer" means the Executive Officer appointed by the Committee.

(g) "Dental assistant" means an unlicensed person as referenced in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 1067(b).

(h) "Dental hygiene care plan" means an organized presentation or list of interventions to promote health or prevent disease of the patient's oral condition; plan is designed by the dental hygienist based on assessment data, dental hygiene diagnosis, and consists of services within the scope of dental hygiene practice.

(i) "Dental hygiene preventive services" means those services provided by the dental hygienist that prevent oral disease or pathology, promote oral health and improve the patient's quality of life.

(j) "Dental hygiene therapeutic interventions" means specific procedure or set of procedures designed to intervene in the disease process to produce a therapeutic benefit.

(k) "Dental hygiene treatment plan" means an organized presentation or list of interventions to promote health or prevent disease of the patient's oral condition designed by the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice based on assessment data and consists of services within the scope of practice of the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice.

(l) "Ethics" for the purposes of the examination required by Section 1917(d) of the Code, means an act or acts in accordance with the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA) or the American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) Code of Ethics.

(m) "Gross trauma" means a burn, deep laceration, long laceration and/or puncture to soft tissue, hard tissue, and/or bone

(n) "Licentiate" or "Licensee" means any individual licensed or registered by the Committee.

(o) "Periodontal debridement" means the process by which hard and soft deposits are removed from the supragingival and subgingival surfaces of the teeth, including the disruption of bacterial cell walls of nonadherent plaque.

(p) "Periodontal evaluation record" means that part of the dental hygiene assessment pertaining to the clinical observations of the gingiva, periodontal pocket probe depths, measurement of the location of the free gingival margin/recession, calculation of attachment loss, measurement of keratinized/attached gingiva, detection of marginal and deep bleeding on probing, detection of suppuration, detection of furcation involvement, detection of fremitus and mobility, and assessment of plaque and calculus accumulations.

(q) "Polishing the coronal surfaces of teeth", or "coronal polishing" means a procedure limited to the removal of plaque on and stain from exposed tooth surfaces, utilizing an appropriate rotary instrument with rubber cup or brush and a polishing agent.

(r) "Refer" means through assessment, diagnosis, or treatment, it is determined that services are needed beyond the practitioner's competence or area of expertise. The patient understands and consents to the referral and some form of evaluation will be accomplished through cooperation with professionals to whom the patient has been referred.

(s) "Root planing" means the process of instrumentation which removes all residual calculus and toxic materials from the root to produce a clean, smooth tooth surface.

(t) "Scaling" means the removal of calculus and dental biofilm from the supragingival and subgingival exposed tooth surfaces.

(u) "Soft tissue curettage" means the removal of the inflamed soft tissue lateral to the pocket wall, which is not subgingival curettage referring to the procedure that is performed apical to the epithelial attachment, severing the connective tissue attachment down to the osseous crest.

(v) "Treatment facility" for purposes of section 1902 of the Code means any place where oral health services are provided.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1902, 1905, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1917 Business and Professions Code.

ARTICLE 2: ADMINISTRATION

§ 1101. Delegation to Committee's Executive Officer.

(a) Except for those powers reserved exclusively to the "agency itself" under the Administrative Procedure Act, (Section 11500 et seq. of the Government Code), the Committee delegates and confers upon the Executive Officer, or his or her designee, all functions necessary to the dispatch of business of the Committee in connection with investigative and administrative proceedings under the jurisdiction of the Committee, including issuing an order for medical or mental examination under Section 820 of the Code, and the ability to approve stipulated settlement agreements for the revocation, surrender or interim suspension of a license.

(b) The power and discretion conferred by law upon the Committee to initiate review and prosecute accusations and statements of issues pursuant to Sections 11500

through 11528 of the Government Code are hereby delegated to and conferred upon the Committee's Executive Officer or in the absence thereof a designee.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1905 and 1950, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 11500-11528, Government Code.

ARTICLE 6. EXAMINATIONS

§1121. Dental Hygiene Written Examinations

Prior to issuance of a license, an applicant for licensure as an RDH, RDHAP or RDHEF shall successfully take and complete a supplemental written examination in California Law and Ethics.

(a) Each examination shall be specific for the RDH, RDHAP or RDHEF license, and

(b) shall test the applicant's knowledge of California law as it relates to the specific dental hygiene practice and the applicant's ability to recognize and apply ethical principles.

(c) An applicant shall be deemed to have passed the examination with a minimum score of seventy-five percent (75%).

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1917, 1918, and 1922 Business and Professions Code.

§1122. General Procedures for the Dental Hygiene Committee of California Written Examinations.

(a) An applicant shall be able to read and interpret instructions and examination materials.

(b) An applicant may be dismissed from the entire examination for engaging in conduct listed in Section 123 of the Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 123, 496, 1905, and 1917, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 123, 496, 1905, and 1917, Business and Professions Code.

§1124. General Procedures for the Dental Hygiene Committee of California Clinical Examination.

(a) Each applicant shall furnish patients, instruments, and materials needed to take and complete the clinical examination.

(b) A patient provided by an applicant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall be in a health condition acceptable for dental hygiene treatment. If conditions indicate a need to consult the patient's physician or for the patient to be pre-medicated, the applicant must obtain the necessary written medical clearance and/or evidence of premedication before the patient will be accepted. The examiners may, in their discretion, reject a patient who in the opinion of at least two examiners has a condition that interferes with evaluation or that may be hazardous to the patient, other patients, applicants or examiners. A hazardous condition includes, but is not limited to, acute

symptomatic hepatitis, active herpetic lesions, acute periodontal or periapical abscesses, or necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis. Whenever a patient is rejected, the reason for such rejection shall be noted on the examination record and shall be signed by both rejecting examiners.

(c) It is the applicant's responsibility to provide an interpreter, if necessary, to complete the medical history and consent form for non-English speaking patients. An interpreter will be allowed in the grading area only if requested by an examiner.

(d) No person shall be admitted to an examination clinic unless he or she is wearing an identification badge.

(e) An applicant may be dismissed from the entire examination for engaging in conduct listed in Section 123 of the Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 123, 1905, and 1917, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 123, 1905, and 1917 Business and Professions Code.

§1126. Conduct of Dental Hygiene Committee of California Clinical Examinations.

Examinations shall be anonymous. An anonymous examination is one conducted in accordance with procedures, including but not limited to those set forth below, which ensure and preserve anonymity of applicants.

(a) The Committee shall randomly assign each applicant a number for identification purposes throughout the entire examination.

(b) Grading examiners shall not view applicants during the performance of the examination assignments. A grading examiner shall be a California licensed RDH, RDHAP, or RDHEF for a minimum of five years.

(c) There shall be no communications between grading examiners and clinic supervisors except for oral communications conducted in the presence of Committee staff. There shall be no communication between grading examiners and applicants except written communications.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 1905 and 1917 Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1905 and 1917, Business and Professions Code.

§1127. Dental Hygiene Committee of California Clinical Examination Review Procedures; Appeals.

(a) An applicant who has failed an examination shall be provided with notice, upon written request, of those areas in which he or she is deficient.

(b) An unsuccessful applicant who has been informed of the areas of deficiency in his or her performance on the examination and who has determined that one or more of the following errors was made during the course of his or her examination and grading may appeal to the Committee within sixty (60) days following receipt of his or her examination results:

- (1) Significant procedural error in the examination process;
- (2) Evidence of adverse discrimination;
- (3) Evidence of substantial disadvantage to the applicant.

(c) An appeal shall be made by means of a written letter specifying the grounds upon which the appeal is based. The Executive Officer shall respond to the appeal in writing and may request a personal appearance by the applicant. The Committee shall thereafter take such action as it deems appropriate.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1905 and 1917, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 1905 and 1917, Business and Professions Code.

ARTICLE 8. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INFECTION CONTROL

§1133. Minimum Standards for Infection Control

Licensees shall comply with the Minimum Standards for Infection Control as set forth in Section 1005 of the California Code of Regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 1905, Business and Professions Code.