

TITLE 172
NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
Chapter 53
RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES
BY LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND OTHER DENTAL AUXILIARIES

001 DEFINITIONS. As used in these Rules and Regulations unless the context otherwise requires:

001.01 Board shall mean the Board of Examiners in Dentistry of the State of Nebraska.

001.02 Dental hygienist shall mean a dental auxiliary who is licensed by the Department of Health to perform, under the supervision of a licensed dentist, the scaling and polishing of teeth in the oral prophylaxis procedures prescribed in these rules and regulations.

001.03 Department shall mean the Department of Health of the State of Nebraska.

001.04 Other dental auxiliary shall mean any person who assists a licensed dentist in carrying out the basic duties of a dental office but who is not licensed as a dental hygienist.

001.05 General supervision shall mean the directing of the authorized activities of a dental hygienist or other dental auxiliary by a licensed dentist and shall not be construed to require the physical presence of the supervisor when directing such activities.

001.06 Indirect supervision shall mean supervision when the licensed dentist authorizes the procedure to be performed by a dental hygienist or dental auxiliary and the licensed dentist is physically present on the premises when such procedure is being performed by the dental auxiliary.

002 SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF DENTAL HYGIENE

002.01 Authorized Services. A licensed dental hygienist, by virtue of training and professional status, is hereby authorized to perform, under the supervision of a licensed dentist, the following clinical services:

002.01A Scaling of teeth, including subgingival regions and root planing with hand and ultrasonic instruments.

002.01B Polishing of all exposed tooth surfaces with motor driven and hand instruments, in the oral prophylaxis procedure.

002.01C Chemical Curettage.

002.01D All of the duties that any other dental auxiliary is authorized to perform.

The licensed dentist assumes full responsibility for all the aforementioned procedures delegated to a licensed dental hygienist, under his supervision.

002.02 Other Prohibited Services. A licensed dental hygienist or any other dental auxiliary, under no circumstances, is ever authorized to perform, whether under the supervision of a licensed dentist or not, the following clinical services:

002.02A Diagnosis and treatment planning.

002.02B Surgery on hard or soft tissue.

002.02C Administering of local or general anesthetics.

002.02D Any other irreversible dental procedure or procedures which require the professional judgment and skill of a licensed dentist.

002.03 Prohibited Services. Except in accredited colleges of dentistry, licensed dental hygienists and other dental auxiliaries are prohibited from performing the following clinical services:

002.03A Any intra-oral procedure which would lead to the fabrication of any prosthesis.

002.03B Placing or contouring of a final restoration.

003 SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF DENTAL AUXILIARIES.

003.01 Authorized Services. A licensed dentist is authorized to delegate to a dental auxiliary, other than a dental hygienist, only those procedures for which the dentist exercises supervision, for which he assumes full responsibility and which do not conflict with these regulations. The phrase "other than a dental hygienist" is used in this section of Subsection 003 to specifically differentiate between "dental hygienist" and any other dental auxiliary, and for no other purpose.

003.02 Prohibited Services. Other dental auxiliaries are not authorized to perform any of the clinical services which may be performed by a licensed dental hygienist pursuant to Subsections 002.01A and 002.01C or any of the clinical services which are prohibited to dental auxiliaries pursuant to Subsection 002.03.

004 DENTAL ROENTGENOGRAMS. Any licensed dental hygienist, by virtue of training and professional ability, is hereby authorized, under the supervision of a licensed dentist, to take dental roentgenograms. Any other dental auxiliary is hereby authorized under the supervision of a licensed dentist to take dental roentgenograms, but they shall not be authorized to do so, on or after January 1, 1973, unless they have satisfactorily completed a course in dental radiology approved by the Board and the Department.

005 CORONAL POLISHING. A dental auxiliary is hereby authorized, under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist, to polish all exposed tooth surfaces with a rubber cup or brush driven by a conventional slow-speed hand piece, but they shall not be authorized to do so on or after January 1, 1997, unless they have met the following requirements:

005.01 Attained the age of eighteen (18); and

005.02 One of the following:

005.02A Have graduated from a dental assisting training program which is accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA) and includes a coronal polishing course; or

005.02B Have one (1) year (a minimum of 1500 hours) of clinical work experience as a dental assistant and have successfully completed a course in polishing procedures which is approved by the Board and Department.

005.03 Criteria for Approval of a Course on Polishing Procedures for Dental Assistants.

005.03A The institution administering the course on coronal polishing must be accredited by the American Dental Association;

005.03B The course must have a minimum of fourteen (14) contact hours of instruction to include ten (10) hours of didactic instruction and four (4) hours of clinical participation;

005.03C The didactic course content must include, but not be limited to, instruction in dental anatomy and physiology of the hard and soft tissues of the deciduous and permanent oral facial complex, the correct management of the hard and soft tissues during coronal polishing procedures, demonstration of appropriate patient and operator positions, instruction in universal precautions and infection control, laboratory exercises utilizing manikins or extracted teeth, indications and contraindications for coronal polishing, armamentarium, and principles of polishing agents;

005.03D The clinical course content must include, but not be limited to, four (4) contact hours of rotary coronal polishing on a minimum of two (2) patients;

005.03E The course shall include written and clinical examinations for the purpose of determining competency of the dental assistant, demonstrating the necessary skills and proficiency to perform coronal polishing; and

005.03F Upon successful completion of the course, the sponsoring institution will provide the attendee with written verification of competency.

006 VIOLATIONS. Any violation of these Rules and Regulations by a licensed dentist or by a licensed dental hygienist shall be considered "unprofessional conduct" and due cause for revocation or suspension of a license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene.

SOURCE: Section 71-193.14

Sections 005 Added

Approved by the Attorney General on January 9, 1998

Approved by the Governor on February 27, 1998

Filed by the Secretary of State on February 27, 1998

Effective Date: March 4, 1998