

IDAHO DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION POLICIES



APPROVED POLICIES OF THE IDAHO DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION
Adopted on October 15, 2010

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of IDHA is to assist and serve individual members through active participation and promotion of the highest standards of the dental hygiene profession.

VISION STATEMENT

Enhance the profession of dental hygiene by improving professionalism, autonomy, access to oral health care, and the relationship of oral health to total health.

- Professionals representing the highest standards of practice, to maintain the integrity of the profession.
- Promoting public awareness by providing quality oral health care to individuals in private and alternative practice settings, including underserved populations.
- Promoting higher educational standards and increased educational offerings to keep pace with the demands of an ever-changing population.
- Increasing public awareness of services provided by dental hygienists.

GOALS

The dental hygiene community will understand the value of IDHA membership and choose to belong.

IDHA will be the recognized resource and community for dental hygiene.

The dental hygiene profession will advance through effective advocacy by IDHA.

IDHA and its members will work in partnership with all stakeholders to advance oral health care.

IDHA will be a data driven, fiscally sound, effectively governed organization.

MAIN POLICIES

ETHICS

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association recognizes that the dental hygienist is accountable both legally and ethically for the quality of dental hygiene services pertaining to the client's oral health care.

Patient Care Services

GOVERNMENT

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports dental hygienists as advocates for the profession of dental hygiene and related issues.

LICENSURE & REGULATION

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports licensure of dental hygienists, who have graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program.

Regulatory Agencies

PRACTICE & TECHNOLOGY

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the creation of an advanced dental hygiene practitioner who provides diagnostic, preventive, restorative and therapeutic services directly to the public.

Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that dental hygiene practice is an integral component of the health care delivery system and that the services provided by a dental hygienist may be performed in collaboration with other health care professionals within the overall context of the health needs of the patient.

Patient Care Services

IDHA advocates evidence-based, patient/client-centered dental hygiene practice.

Patient Care Services

ACCESS

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the following:

1. Interdisciplinary preventive and therapeutic care for the developmentally, physically, mentally and/or medically compromised.
2. Promotion of public and professional awareness of the need for care.
3. The encouragement of public funding, where appropriate, and third party payment for such services.

Access to Care

EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports accreditation standards that prepare entry level dental hygienists to assume all the professional roles of a dental hygienist in a variety of settings to meet the preventive and therapeutic health care needs of the public.

Accreditation

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates continuing education for all dental hygienists to expand scientific knowledge and enhance practice modalities.

Professional Development

PREVENTION AND WELLNESS

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates evidence based oral health management strategies for the prevention of oral and systemic diseases.

Prevention

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association affirms its support for optimal oral health for all people and is committed to collaborative partnerships and coalitions that improve access to oral health services.

Access to Care

ETHICS

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association recognizes that the dental hygienist is accountable both legally and ethically for the quality of dental hygiene services pertaining to the client's oral health care.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the availability and accessibility of quality, cost-effective oral health care.

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports increasing diversity within the profession of dental hygiene.

Career Recruitment

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association opposes any misrepresentation of dental hygiene services.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports legislation granting immunity to dental hygienists when responding to any disaster or emergency situation, so declared by an appropriate authority.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that dental hygienists, as health care professionals, are responsible for taking appropriate action in suspected abuse and neglect cases.

Scope of Practice

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates a work environment free of discrimination and harassment.

Discrimination

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association opposes misleading advertising and unsubstantiated claims connected with oral health care products and services; and supports recognized professional and consumer groups who share this commitment.

Wellness

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CODE OF ETHICS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS

1. Preamble

As dental hygienists, we are a community of professionals devoted to the prevention of disease and the promotion and improvement of the public's health. We are preventive oral health professionals who provide educational, clinical, and therapeutic services to the public. We strive to live meaningful, productive, satisfying lives that simultaneously serve us, our profession, our society, and the world. Our actions, behaviors, and attitudes are consistent with our commitment to public service. We endorse and incorporate the Code into our daily lives.

2. Purpose

The purpose of a professional code of ethics is to achieve high levels of ethical consciousness, decision making, and practice by the members of the profession. Specific objectives of the Dental Hygiene Code of Ethics are:

- to increase our professional and ethical consciousness and sense of ethical responsibility.
- to lead us to recognize ethical issues and choices and to guide us in making more informed ethical decisions.
- to establish a standard for professional judgment and conduct.
- to provide a statement of the ethical behavior the public can expect from us.

The Dental Hygiene Code of Ethics is meant to influence us throughout our careers. It stimulates our continuing study of ethical issues and challenges us to explore our ethical responsibilities. The Code establishes concise standards of behavior to guide the public's expectations of our profession and supports dental hygiene practice, laws and regulations. By holding ourselves accountable to meeting the standards stated in the Code, we enhance the public's trust on which our professional privilege and status are founded.

3. Key Concepts

Our beliefs, principles, values and ethics are concepts reflected in the Code. They are the essential elements of our comprehensive and definitive code of ethics, and are interrelated and mutually dependent.

4. Basic Beliefs

We recognize the importance of the following beliefs that guide our practice and provide context for our ethics:

- The services we provide contribute to the health and well being of society.
- Our education and licensure qualify us to serve the public by preventing and treating oral disease and helping individuals achieve and maintain optimal health.
- Individuals have intrinsic worth, are responsible for their own health, and are entitled to make choices regarding their health.
- Dental hygiene care is an essential component of overall health care and we function interdependently with other health care providers.
- All people should have access to health care, including oral health care.
- We are individually responsible for our actions and the quality of care we provide.

5. Fundamental Principles

These fundamental principles, universal concepts and general laws of conduct provide the foundation for our ethics.

Universality

The principle of universality expects that, if one individual judges an action to be right or wrong in a given situation, other people considering the same action in the same situation would make the same judgment.

Complementarity

The principle of complementarity recognizes the existence of an obligation to justice and basic human rights. In all relationships, it requires considering the values and perspectives of others before making decisions or taking actions affecting them.

Ethics

Ethics are the general standards of right and wrong that guide behavior within society. As generally accepted actions, they can be judged by determining the extent to which they promote good and minimize harm. Ethics compel us to engage in health promotion/disease prevention activities.

Community

This principle expresses our concern for the bond between individuals, the community, and society in general. It leads us to preserve natural resources and inspires us to show concern for the global environment.

Responsibility

Responsibility is central to our ethics. We recognize that there are guidelines for making ethical choices and accept responsibility for knowing and applying them. We accept the consequences of our actions or the failure to act and are willing to make ethical choices and publicly affirm them.

6. Core Values

We acknowledge these values as general for our choices and actions.

Individual autonomy and respect for human beings

People have the right to be treated with respect. They have the right to informed consent prior to treatment, and they have the right to full disclosure of all relevant information so that they can make informed choices about their care.

Confidentiality

We respect the confidentiality of client information and relationships as a demonstration of the value we place on individual autonomy. We acknowledge our obligation to justify any violation of a confidence.

Societal Trust

We value client trust and understand that public trust in our profession is based on our actions and behavior.

Non-maleficence

We accept our fundamental obligation to provide services in a manner that protects all clients and minimizes harm to them and others involved in their treatment.

Beneficence

We have a primary role in promoting the well being of individuals and the public by engaging in health promotion/disease prevention activities.

Justice and Fairness

We value justice and support the fair and equitable distribution of health care resources. We believe all people should have access to high-quality, affordable oral healthcare.

Veracity

We accept our obligation to tell the truth and expect that others will do the same. We value self-knowledge and seek truth and honesty in all relationships.

7. Standards of Professional Responsibility

We are obligated to practice our profession in a manner that supports our purpose, beliefs, and values in accordance with the fundamental principles that support our ethics. We acknowledge the following responsibilities:

To Ourselves as Individuals...

- Avoid self-deception, and continually strive for knowledge and personal growth.
- Establish and maintain a lifestyle that supports optimal health.
- Create a safe work environment.
- Assert our own interests in ways that are fair and equitable.
- Seek the advice and counsel of others when challenged with ethical dilemmas.
- Have realistic expectations of ourselves and recognize our limitations.

To Ourselves as Professionals...

- Enhance professional competencies through continuous learning in order to practice according to high standards of care.
- Support dental hygiene peer-review systems and quality-assurance measures.
- Develop collaborative professional relationships and exchange knowledge to enhance our own lifelong professional development.

To Family and Friends...

- Support the efforts of others to establish and maintain healthy lifestyles and respect the rights of friends and family.

To Clients...

- Provide oral health care utilizing high levels of professional knowledge, judgment, and skill.
- Maintain a work environment that minimizes the risk of harm.
- Serve all clients without discrimination and avoid action toward any individual or group that may be interpreted as discriminatory.
- Hold professional client relationships confidential.

- Communicate with clients in a respectful manner.
- Promote ethical behavior and high standards of care by all dental hygienists.
- Serve as an advocate for the welfare of clients.
- Provide clients with the information necessary to make informed decisions about their oral health and encourage their full participation in treatment decisions and goals.
- Refer clients to other healthcare providers when their needs are beyond our ability or scope of practice.
- Educate clients about high-quality oral health care.

To Colleagues...

- conduct professional activities and programs, and develop relationships in ways that are honest, responsible, and appropriately open and candid.
- Encourage a work environment that promotes individual professional growth and development.
- Collaborate with others to create a work environment that minimizes risk to the personal health and safety of our colleagues.
- Manage conflicts constructively.
- Support the efforts of other dental hygienists to communicate the dental hygiene philosophy and preventive oral care.
- Inform other health care professionals about the relationship between general and oral health.
- Promote human relationships that are mutually beneficial, including those with other health care professionals.

To Employees and Employers...

- Conduct professional activities and programs, and develop relationships in ways that are honest, responsible, open, and candid.
- Manage conflicts constructively.
- Support the right of our employees and employers to work in an environment that promotes Wellness.
- Respect the employment rights of our employers and employees.

To the Dental Hygiene Profession...

- Participate in the development and advancement of our profession.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and declare them when they occur.
- Seek opportunities to increase public awareness and understanding of oral health practices.
- Act in ways that bring credit to our profession while demonstrating appropriate respect for colleagues in other professions.
- Contribute time, talent, and financial resources to support and promote our profession.
- Promote a positive image for our profession.
- Promote a framework for professional education that develops dental hygiene competencies to meet the oral and overall health needs of the public.

To the Community and Society...

- Recognize and uphold the laws and regulations governing our profession.
- Document and report inappropriate, inadequate, or substandard care and/or illegal activities by a health care provider, to the responsible authorities.

- Use peer review as a mechanism for identifying inappropriate, inadequate, or substandard care provided by dental hygienists.
- Comply with local, state, and federal statutes that promote public health and safety.
- Develop support systems and quality-assurance programs in the workplace to assist dental hygienists in providing the appropriate standard of care.
- Promote access to dental hygiene services for all, supporting justice and fairness in the distribution of healthcare resources.
- Act consistently with the ethics of the global scientific community of which our profession is a part.
- Create a healthful workplace ecosystem to support a healthy environment.
- Recognize and uphold our obligation to provide pro bono service.

To Scientific Investigation...

We accept responsibility for conducting research according to the fundamental principles underlying our ethical beliefs in compliance with universal codes, governmental standards, and professional guidelines for the care and management of experimental subjects. We acknowledge our ethical obligations to the scientific community:

- Conduct research that contributes knowledge that is valid and useful to our clients and society.
- Use research methods that meet accepted scientific standards.
- Use research resources appropriately.
- Systematically review and justify research in progress to insure the most favorable benefit-to-risk ratio to research subjects.
- Submit all proposals involving human subjects to an appropriate human subject review committee.
- Secure appropriate institutional committee approval for the conduct of research involving animals.
- Obtain informed consent from human subjects participating in research that is based on specification published in Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 46.
- Respect the confidentiality and privacy of data.
- Seek opportunities to advance dental hygiene knowledge through research by providing financial, human, and technical resources whenever possible.
- Report research results in a timely manner.
- Report research findings completely and honestly, drawing only those conclusions that are supported by the data presented.
- Report the names of investigators fairly and accurately.
- Interpret the research and the research of others accurately and objectively, drawing conclusions that are supported by the data presented and seeking clarity when uncertain.
- Critically evaluate research methods and results before applying new theory and technology in practice.
- Be knowledgeable concerning currently accepted preventive and therapeutic methods, products, and technology and their application to our practice.

CODE OF ETHICS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Accountability**—obliged to account for one's acts, responsible
- Advocate**—a person who pleads another's cause, to speak or write in support
- Autonomy**—independent, self-governing
- Beliefs**—conviction or acceptance that certain things are true or real
- Beneficence**—the fact or quality of being kind, doing good, charity
- Colleagues**—a fellow worker or associate in the same profession
- Community**—participation in common, society in general
- Competencies**—qualifications, ability, fitness, specific legal capabilities
- Complementarity**—that which completes or brings to perfection, an interrelationship
- Confidential**—entrusted with private or secret matters
- Conscience**—a knowledge or sense of right and wrong, with a compulsion to do right
- Consent**—to give permission, approval or assent, to agree in opinion
- Deception**—anything that deceives by design or illusion
- Ecosystem**—a system made of a community and its interrelated environment
- Ethics**—the system or code of morals of a particular person, group, profession, etc.
- Fairness**—unprejudiced, just and honest, free from discrimination
- Interdependent**—mutual dependence, depending on one another
- Intrinsic**—essential, inherent, belonging to the real nature of a thing, not dependent on external circumstances
- Judgment**—the ability to come to opinions about things, power of comparing and deciding, understanding
- Justice**—the use of authority and power to uphold what is right, just or lawful, fairness, impartiality
- Laws**—all the rules of conduct established and enforced by authority, legislation
- Maleficence**—the act of being harmful or hurtful
- Non-maleficence**—not doing harm
- Optimal**—most favorable or desirable, the best
- Peer Review**—review performed by a person of the same rank or ability
- Principles**—a fundamental truth, law, doctrine or motivating force, a rule of conduct
- Quality Assurance**—a program for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of a project, service, or facility to ensure that standards of quality are being met
- Regulations**—a rule or order issued by an executive authority or regulatory agency of a government dealing with the details or procedure and having the force of law
- Resource**—where one turns for aid, ready for use or that can be drawn upon
- Respect**—to show consideration, honor or esteem, consideration or courteous regard
- Responsibility**—condition of being responsible, answerable, accountable
- Statutes**—laws enacted by a legislative body
- Systematically**—characterized by the use of a method or orderly planning, methodical
- Technology**—the science or study of the applied sciences
- Theory**—a systematic statement of principles, a formulation of apparent relationships
- Trust**—firm belief or confidence in the honesty, integrity, reliability, justice, etc. of another person or thing
- Universality**—quality, state or instance of application, occurrence, comprehensiveness
- Values**—social goals or standards held or accepted by an individual, class, society, etc.
- Veracity**—habitual truthfulness, accuracy of statements

GOVERNMENT

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports *dental hygienists* as advocates for the profession of *dental hygiene* and related issues.

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the inclusion and utilization of *dental hygienists* in response to events of terrorism and catastrophe.

Terrorism & Catastrophe

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that in states requiring a clinical examination, licensed *dental hygienists* examine and evaluate candidates for *dental hygiene* licensure.

Examinations

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association endorses a mandatory comprehensive oral examination by a licensed *dental hygienist* or dentist, with referral for appropriate follow up care, upon entry into primary, middle, and secondary schools or entry into a new school or school district.

Examinations

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the upgrading of the civil service classification for *dental hygienists*.

Professional Development

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports self-regulation for the profession of *dental hygiene*.

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the appointment of the proportionate representation of *dental hygienists* who are graduates of accredited *dental hygiene* programs as full voting and policy-making members of agencies that regulate the practice of *dental hygiene* and administer *dental hygiene* examinations.

Regulatory Agencies

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the appointment of consumers as full voting and policy-making members of boards/committees that regulate the practice of *dental hygiene*.

Regulatory Agencies

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports licensed *dental hygienists* who are graduates of accredited *dental hygiene* programs to serve as consultants to state agencies that regulate the practice of *dental hygiene* and dentistry.

Regulatory Agencies

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the inclusion of *dental hygienists* in the development of federal, state and local policies that support improved oral health and wellness.

Oral Health Policy

LICENSURE & REGULATION

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports licensure of dental hygienists, who have graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program.

Regulatory Agencies

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports equitable representation of dental hygiene on both the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation and the ADA Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, including representatives of dental hygiene practice, education and state board members.

Accreditation

Regulatory Agencies

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that expansion of permissible practices of a dental hygienist must be predicated on formal educational preparation.

Competence

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates and encourages regulatory agencies to accept an applicant for licensure by credentials if the following minimum criteria are met:

- Graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program.
- Successful completion of both an American Dental Hygienists' Association recognized Dental Hygiene national clinical board dental hygiene examination and regional and/or state board examination.
- Possession of a valid dental hygiene license in another state/jurisdiction.
- Absence of pending and/or final disciplinary action in any other state/jurisdiction in which the individual had been licensed.

Credentialing

Regulatory Agencies

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports recognition of a valid, reliable and cost effective dental hygiene national board examination which tests the ability to apply knowledge of dental hygiene biological sciences and oral medicine. Eligibility for this exam, administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations is limited to graduates and graduate-eligible students of accredited dental hygiene programs.

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that regional and/or state testing agencies adopt policies that ensure the highest ethical standards to protect the safety and welfare of patients who participate in clinical dental hygiene examinations.

Examination

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates current basic life support health care provider course completion and mandatory continuing education for all dental hygienists for maintaining and reinstating dental hygiene licensure.

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports research to identify and implement a valid, reliable alternative to the use of human subjects in clinical licensure examinations for candidates who are graduates of accredited dental hygiene programs and who are eligible to take the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination.

PRACTICE & TECHNOLOGY

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the creation of an advanced dental hygiene practitioner who provides diagnostic, preventive, restorative and therapeutic services directly to the public.

Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the right of a dental hygienist, who is a graduate of an accredited program, to own a dental hygiene practice, own the dental hygiene portion of a dental practice, or enter into a contractual agreement to provide dental hygiene services, in accordance with state dental and/or dental hygiene practice acts.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports dental hygienists performing dental triage.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that dental hygienists, be recognized for direct reimbursement for services rendered.

Scope of Practice

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that dental hygiene practice is an integral component of the health care delivery system and that the services provided by a dental hygienist may be performed in cooperation with other health care professionals within the overall context of the health needs of the patient.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports educating the public and other health professionals regarding health risks of intra and extra oral piercing and oral modification; as well as supporting licensure and regulation of body-piercing establishments.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates evidence-based, patient/client-centered dental hygiene practice.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that the dental hygiene diagnosis is a necessary and intrinsic element of dental hygiene education and scope of practice.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines for preventing the transmission of infectious diseases.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association acknowledges that the scope of dental hygiene practice includes the assessment and evaluation of orofacial myofunctional dysfunction; and further advocates that dental hygienists complete advanced clinical and didactic continuing education prior to providing treatment.

Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists Association advocates that the scope of dental hygiene practice in all states includes utilization and administration of appropriate pain and anxiety control modalities.
Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports comprehensive risk-based assessment of the patient's needs prior to and throughout the delivery of oral health services.
Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the development and utilization of emerging technologies that maximize human health and safety.
Patient Care Services/Technology

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports systems to ensure quality assurance.
Quality Assurance

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association recognizes that dental hygienists who are graduates of an accredited program are competent to provide dental hygiene services without supervision.
Competence
Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates cultural and linguistic competence for health professionals.
Competence

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards relating to workplace safety and training.
Patient Care Services

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that dental hygienists perform screenings for the prevention and interdisciplinary management of diseases and associated risk factors as a component of patient assessment.
Patient Care Services

ACCESS

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the following:

1. **Interdisciplinary preventive and therapeutic care for the developmentally, physically, mentally and/or medically compromised.**
2. **Promotion of public and professional awareness of the need for care.**
3. **The encouragement of public funding, where appropriate, and third party payment for such services.**

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that any national health insurance program include benefits for preventive and therapeutic oral health care.

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that comprehensive, evidence-based treatment plan options be offered to all patients regardless of economic status, third-party coverage or other remuneration methods.

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates loan forgiveness programs for licensed dental hygienists who provide dental hygiene services to underserved sectors of the population.

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports oral health care workforce models that culminate in:

- Graduation from an accredited institution
- Professional licensure
- Direct access to patient care

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that any health insurance program include benefits for preventive, restorative and therapeutic oral health care.

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that state dental hygiene and/or dental practice acts be amended so that the services of dental hygienists who are graduates from an accredited dental hygiene program can be fully utilized in all public and private settings.

Access/State Practice

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association endorses increasing public access to dental hygiene care provided by dental hygienists who are graduates of an accredited dental hygiene program by:

1. Maximizing the utilization of services that dental hygienists are educated to provide by increasing the practice settings where dental hygienists can provide services;
2. Removing supervision constraints;
3. Removing restrictions on the number of dental hygienists allowed within practice settings; and
4. Advocating licensure by credentials.

Access to RDH/LDH

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports expanding access to preventive, restorative and therapeutic care within the dental hygiene scope of practice.
Access/DH Scope

EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports accreditation standards that prepare entry level dental hygienists to assume all the professional roles of a dental hygienist in a variety of settings to meet the preventive and therapeutic health care needs of the public.

Accreditation

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association is opposed to the recognition of preceptor training or any other mechanisms which undermine existing minimum educational requirements for the dental hygiene scope of practice.

Accreditation

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports accreditation by the dental hygiene profession, of all entry level, degree completion, and graduate dental hygiene education programs.

Accreditation

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports all aspects of formal dental hygiene education which includes certificate, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs; however, the Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association declares its intent to establish the baccalaureate degree as the minimum entry level for dental hygiene practice in the future and to develop the theoretical base for dental hygiene practice.

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports recruitment of individuals who have received training in technical procedures associated with dental hygiene to enroll in an accredited dental hygiene program. In addition, the IDHA advocates that licensed and student dental hygienists be responsible for dental hygiene career recruitment.

Career Recruitment

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports that radiation-producing imaging devices be operated only by qualified individuals who have successfully completed approved courses that meet state and/or federal regulations for radiation safety.

Competence

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that licensed dental hygienists successfully complete clinical and didactic education before performance of additional functions permitted through a change of state law.

Competence

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates being the credentialing authority for the dental hygiene profession beyond initial licensure.

Credentialing

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports externships and internships within accredited dental hygiene programs in order for students to gain practical experience in public health and alternative practice settings.

Curriculum

Certificate and/or Associate Degree Dental Hygiene Programs

1. Programs offering certificates and/or associate degrees should provide an education consistent with the associate degree standards of higher education. The certificate and/or associate degree curriculum should be conducted at an educational level that meets the standards for accredited dental hygiene programs.
2. The curricula should allow for integration of all liberal arts, biomedical sciences, oral health sciences and dental hygiene sciences content and shall provide a theoretical framework as well as mechanisms for achieving clinical competence when appropriate for all aspects of dental hygiene practice.
3. Certificate and/or associate degree programs are encouraged to develop academic partnerships or articulation agreements with four year colleges and/or universities to allow the development of integrated baccalaureate degree dental hygiene curricula.

Curriculum

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports dental hygiene curricula that leads to competency in the dental hygiene process: assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation.

Curriculum

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that all accredited dental hygiene programs prepare students for licensure in any United States or Canadian jurisdiction.

Curriculum

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the development and implementation of flexibly scheduled and technologically advanced educational delivery systems only when clinical, didactic and laboratory education is provided through an accredited dental hygiene program.

Curriculum

Baccalaureate Degree Dental Hygiene Programs

1. Programs offering a baccalaureate degree should provide an education consistent with standards in higher education. The baccalaureate curriculum should be conducted at a level which allows for admission to university graduate programs. The curriculum should incorporate a substantive body of knowledge in the social, behavioral and biological sciences as prerequisites for entrance into advanced education
2. Baccalaureate programs conferring the Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene should provide advanced knowledge and skills in dental hygiene. These curricula should prepare graduates for expanded roles in the provision of oral health services. These services shall be determined by projected oral health needs, potential for the dental hygienist to provide services to meet these needs and the ability of the dental hygiene program to provide instruction in these areas.
3. The curricula should allow for integration of all liberal arts, biomedical sciences, oral health sciences and dental hygiene science content and shall provide a theoretical framework for all aspects of dental hygiene practice.
4. Baccalaureate degree programs are encouraged to develop four year integrated dental hygiene curricula.

Curriculum

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports a standardized educational curriculum developed by the American Dental Hygienists' Association for the advanced dental hygiene practitioner.
ADHP Curriculum

Master's Degree Dental Hygiene Programs

1. Master's degree programs in dental hygiene should be at an educational level equivalent to master's degree programs in other disciplines and allow further pursuit of advanced degrees.
2. Curricula should be designed to provide dental hygienists with advanced concepts in social, behavioral and biological sciences and dental hygiene practice and education. They should provide graduates with the skills necessary to contribute to the expansion of the dental hygiene body of knowledge through research.

Curriculum

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports the initiation of new dental hygiene educational programs if:

- there is documented ongoing manpower need that cannot be met by an existing institution of higher education.
- there is a documented ongoing manpower need that cannot be met by dental hygienists.
- there is a demonstrated qualified applicant pool.
- the program offers an integrated curriculum that culminates in baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene.
- the program has financial resources to initiate and maintain dental hygiene educational standards.
- the program is supported by the component and constituent dental hygienist associations.
- the program meets appropriate accreditation requirements prior to the acceptance of students.

Curriculum

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that dental hygiene educational programs be administered or directed only by educationally qualified actively licensed dental hygienists.

Faculty/Administrators

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association encourages all dental hygiene faculty to be members of the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

Faculty/Administrators

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association endorses the principle that health professionals who are employed for classroom educational activities should have specialized educational professional preparation.

Faculty/Administrators

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that licensing boards accept continuing education courses for credit in the following areas: dental hygiene process and the professional roles of the dental hygienist. In addition, courses related to behavioral science, management and administration programs as well as courses in organizational development related to leadership.

Professional Development

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates continuing education for all dental hygienists to expand scientific knowledge and enhance practice modalities.

Professional Development

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates collaborative continuing education efforts and exchange of information to promote optimal total health with accredited institutions and other health disciplines that provide continuing education.

Professional Development

IDHA FRAMEWORK FOR THEORY DEVELOPMENT

The discipline of dental hygiene is the art and science of preventive oral health care including the management of behaviors to prevent oral disease and promote health. Preventive oral health care includes: a) the coordination and delivery of primary preventive oral health educational and clinical services, b) the provision of secondary preventive intervention to prevent further disease and to promote overall health, and c) the facilitation of the client's access to care and implementation of mutually agreed upon oral health care goals. These methods of preventing oral disease and promoting wellness are provided by the dental hygienists in collaboration with the health care team in a variety of settings to all populations--those served, those underserved, and those outside the oral health care system.

Within the domain of dental hygiene, the main concepts studied are the client, the environment in which the client and dental hygienist find themselves, the promotion of health/oral health, and the dental hygiene actions which lead the client toward oral health care wellness.

Definitions:

Client—The concept of client refers to the potential or actual recipients of dental hygiene care, and includes persons, families, groups and communities of all ages, genders, socio-cultural and economic states.

Environment—The concept of environment refers to factors other than dental hygiene actions which affect the clients' attainment of optimal oral health. These include economic psychological, cultural, physical, political, legal, educational, ethical and/or geographical factors. Some of these factors may be more related to the client, while others may be more related to the provider.

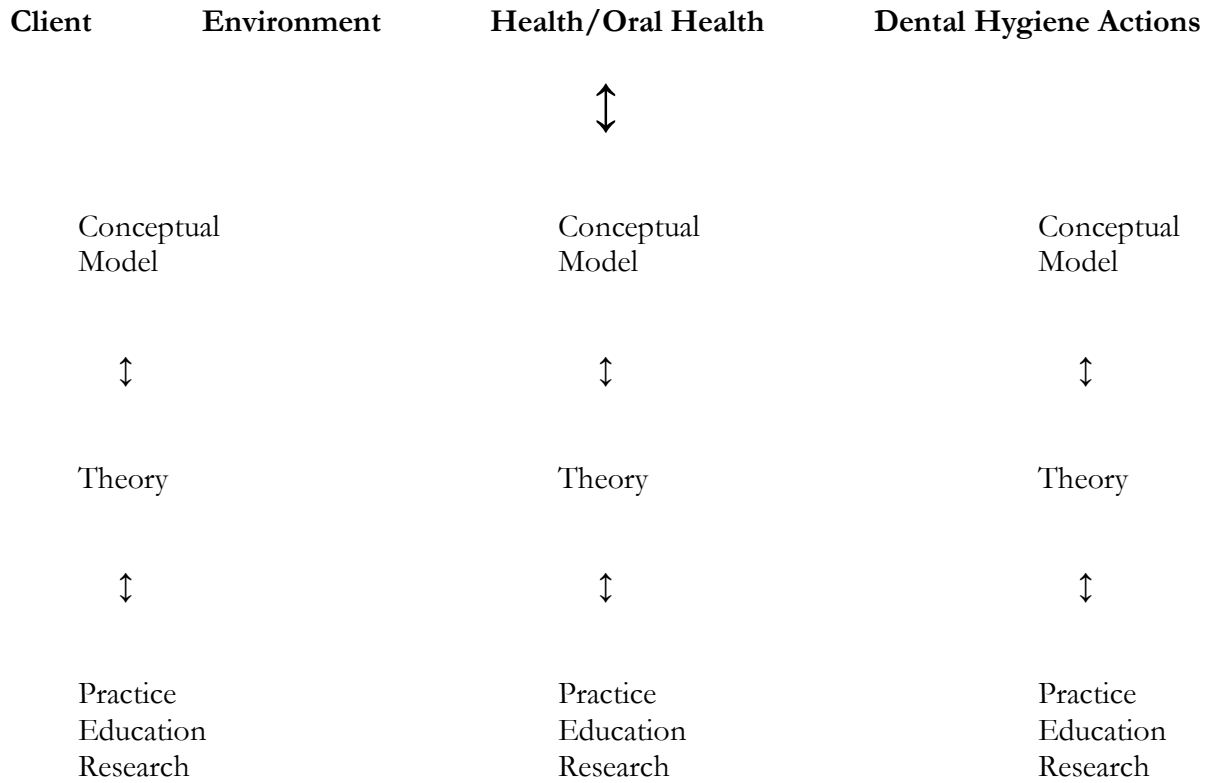
Health/Oral Health—The concept of health/oral health refers to the client's state of being that exists on a continuum from optimal wellness to illness and fluctuates overtime as a result of biological, psychological, spiritual and developmental factors. Oral health and overall health status are interrelated because each impacts the other. Preventive oral health care maintains or improves the client's health/oral health position on the continuum, and thus maintains or improves the client's quality of life.

Dental Hygiene Actions—Dental Hygiene actions involve cognitive, affective and psychomotor performances. They include assessing, diagnosis, planning, implementing and evaluating (dental hygiene process) preventive oral health care. They may be provided in independent, interdependent and collaborative relationships with the client and health care team members.

Dental hygiene actions also incorporate leadership, research, and behavioral principles in the management of the client's health/oral health status on the wellness/illness continuum. Dental hygiene actions are implemented in accordance with ethical principles and recognized standards of practice. Dental hygiene actions reflect and affirm dental hygiene's unique commitment to preventive oral health care.

IDHA FRAMEWORK FOR THEORY DEVELOPMENT
DENTAL HYGIENE THEORY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

PARADIGM CONCEPTS



RESEARCH

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports research into all facets of the profession of dental hygiene.

Professional Development

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports basic science and applied research in the investigation of health promotion/disease prevention and theoretical frameworks which form the basis for education and practice. All research efforts should enhance the profession's ability to promote the health and well-being of the public.

Wellness

PREVENTION AND WELLNESS

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates evidence based oral health management strategies for the prevention of oral and systemic diseases.

Prevention

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association opposes the marketing and distribution of tobacco products and promotional look-alike products that encourage tobacco use.

Addiction

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates prevention and cessation of tobacco usage and the involvement of dental hygienists in tobacco intervention initiatives.

Addiction

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports a tobacco-free environment in all public facilities.

Wellness

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates collaboration with organizations to identify, promote and utilize available substance abuse and addiction resources and programs.

Addiction

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports nutritional guidelines and programs that promote total health and encourages media advertising and public education that promote healthy eating habits and wellness.

Nutrition

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports consumer awareness by requiring labeling of all products that have potential adverse effects on oral health.

Product Labeling

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association opposes contractual arrangements between school districts and vendors that promote unhealthy consumption patterns.

Nutrition

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports water fluoridation as a safe and effective method for reducing the incidence of dental caries.

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports education of the public and other health professionals regarding the preventive and therapeutic benefits of fluoride.

Prevention

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association affirms its support for optimal oral health for all people and is committed to collaborative partnerships and coalitions that improve access to oral health services.

Access to Care

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports programs that inform stakeholders of the scope of dental hygiene practice and its contribution to health in collaboration with health care delivery providers.

Access to Care

Wellness

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the development of evidence-based comprehensive community oral health programs.

Public Health Programs

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates delivery of evidence-based dental hygiene services by licensed dental hygienists in all settings.

Public Health

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the systematic collection of data by dental hygienists to aid in the identification of children and adults.

Public Health Programs

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for inclusion of oral health as an integral component of a coordinated school health program.

Public Health Programs

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports use of dental hygienists in community-based programs to improve health.

Public Health Programs

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association endorses the expansion of programs that appropriate funding for comprehensive, evidence-based oral health care.

Public Health Programs

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the use of process and outcome measures in the evaluation of oral health programs. This review should include the following:

- 1) utilization of dental hygienists
- 2) trends in oral health care delivery
- 3) appropriate standards and administration
- 4) outcomes of care
- 5) cost effectiveness
- 6) access measures

Public Health Programs

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association supports comprehensive oral health programs and services that reach at-risk populations.
Public Health Programs

GLOSSARY

Accreditation:

A formal, voluntary non-governmental process that establishes a minimum set of national standards that promote and assure quality in educational institutions and programs and serves as a mechanism to protect the public.

Accreditation

Accredited Dental Hygiene Program:

A dental hygiene program that achieves or exceeds the established minimum standards set by a United States Department of Education (USDOE)-recognized regional accrediting agency and/or the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The curriculum shall be at the appropriate level to enable matriculation into a baccalaureate, masters or doctoral degree program. This entry-level dental hygiene program shall:

1. Award a minimum of an associate level degree, the credits of which are transferable to a 4-year institution and applicable toward a baccalaureate degree.
2. Retain control of curricular and clinical components.
3. Include at least 2 academic years of full time instruction or its equivalent in academic credits earned at the post-secondary college level.
4. Encompass both liberal arts and dental hygiene science course work sufficient to prepare the practitioner to assume licensure in any jurisdiction.

Accredited Dental Hygiene Program

Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner:

A dental hygienist who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and has completed an advanced educational curriculum approved by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, which prepares the dental hygienist to provide diagnostic, preventive, restorative and therapeutic services directly to the public.

Dental Hygiene Practice

Assessment:

The collection and analysis of systematic and oral health data in order to identify client* needs.

Dental Hygiene Process of Care SCDHP

Client:

The concept of client refers to the potential or actual recipients of dental hygiene care, and includes persons, families, groups and communities of all ages, genders, socio-cultural and economic states.

*In the Dental Hygiene Process, client may refer to individuals, families, groups or communities as defined in the ADHA Framework for Theory Development.

Scope of Practice SCDHP

Credentialing:

The process by which an authorized and qualified entity evaluates competence and grants the formal recognition to, or records the recognition status of individuals that meet predetermined and standardized criteria.

Credentialing

Cultural Competence:

Awareness of cultural difference among all populations, respect of those differences and application of that knowledge to professional practice.

Cultural Competence

Delivery Systems:

Means by which health care services are provided by dental hygienists to improve or maintain the oral health care and overall health status of the public.

Delivery Systems

Dental Home:

A relationship between a person and a specific team of health professionals, led by a licensed dental provider. The dental home is an ongoing partnership that coordinates comprehensive, accessible and culturally sensitive care through delivery of oral health services as part of integrated health care.

Dental Home

Dental Hygiene:

- The science and practice of the recognition, treatment, and prevention of oral diseases.
- The profession of dental hygiene

Dental Hygiene

Dental Hygiene Diagnosis:

The dental hygiene diagnosis is a component of the overall dental diagnosis. The dental hygiene diagnosis is the identification of an existing or potential oral health problem that a dental hygienist is educationally qualified and licensed to treat. The dental hygiene diagnosis requires analysis of all available assessment data and the use of critical decision making skills in order to reach conclusions about the patients dental hygiene treatment needs. (ADHA Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice-SCDHP)

Dental Hygiene Process of Care SCDHP

Dental Hygiene Process of Care:

- Assessment
- Diagnosis
- Plan
- Implementation
- Evaluation
- Documentation

(individual definitions in glossary)

Dental Hygiene Process of Care

Dental Hygienist:

A preventive oral health professional who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program in an institution of higher education, licensed in dental hygiene who provides educational, clinical, research, administrative, and therapeutic services supporting total health through the promotion of optimal oral health.

Dental Hygienist

Dental Public Health:

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association defines dental public health as the science and art of preventing and controlling oral diseases and promoting oral health through organized community efforts. Dental public health is concerned with the oral health education of the public, applied dental research, administration of oral health care programs, and prevention and control of oral disease on a community basis.

Prevention

Dental Public Health Setting:

Any setting where community-focused or population-based education, assessment, and preventive or therapeutic oral health services can be provided as a means to prevent or control disease.

Public Health Setting

Dental Triage:

The screening of clients to determine priority of treatment needs.

Dental Triage

Evaluation:

The measurement of the extent to which the client has achieved the goals specified in the plan.

Judgment to continue, discontinue, or modify the dental hygiene plan of care.

Dental Hygiene Process of Care SCDHP

Evidence-Based Practice:

The conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual clients. The practice of evidence-based dental hygiene requires the integration of individual clinical expertise and client preferences with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research.

Evidence-Based Practice

Fact Sheet:

A document that summarizes key points of information for distribution.

Fact Sheet

Implementation:

The act of carrying out the dental hygiene plan of care.

Dental Hygiene Process of Care SCDHP

Independent Practitioner:

A dental hygienist who provides dental hygiene services to the public without the specific authorization of a dentist through direct agreement with each client in accordance with the state dental hygiene/dental practice act.

Dental Hygiene Practice

Interdisciplinary Care:

Two or more healthcare providers working within their respective disciplines who collaborate with the patient and/or caregiver to develop and implement a care plan.

Interdisciplinary Care

Linguistic Competence:

The ability to communicate effectively and respond appropriately to the health literacy needs of all populations.

Linguistic Competence

Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner:

A licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and who provides primary oral health care directly to patients to promote and restore oral health through assessment, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation and referral services. The Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner has met the educational requirements to provide services within an expanded scope of care, and practices under regulations set forth by the appropriate licensing agency.

Dental Hygiene Practice

Optimal Oral Health:

A standard of health of the oral and related tissues which enables an individual to eat, speak, and socialize without active disease, discomfort or embarrassment, and which contributes to general well-being and overall total health.

Optimal Oral Health

Planning:

The establishment of realistic goals and the selection of dental hygiene interventions that can move the client closer to optimal oral health.

Dental Hygiene Process of Care SCDHP

Position Paper:

A written document that summarizes the organization's viewpoint on a specific topic which includes supporting research. The purpose is to communicate to members and external audiences.

Position Paper

Primary Dental Hygiene Care Provider:

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association recognizes the dental hygienist as a primary care provider of dental hygiene services. Primary Care can be defined by the scope, character and integration of services.

Scope: Primary care consists of preventive care, screening procedures, problem identification, symptomatic treatment, dental hygiene diagnosis and treatment, referral, follow-up, patient education, and counseling for health problems and for promoting the highest level of health possible to the patient. Characteristics: primary care (1) is first contact care initiated by the patient or other person who assumes responsibility for the patient, (2) takes place in a variety of practice settings, and (3) is provided by practitioners. Integration: Primary care practitioners serve as the entry and control point linking the patient to total health care systems by providing coordination with other specialized health or social services to ensure that the patient receives comprehensive and continuous care at a single point in time as well as over a period of time.

The Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association identifies a primary care provider of dental hygiene services as any person who by virtue of dental hygiene license, graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program, and a defined scope of practice, provides one or more of these services defined under the scope of primary care.

Primary Care Provider

Professional Autonomy:

Professional Autonomy: a profession's authority and responsibility for its own standards of education, regulation, practice, licensure and discipline.

Professional Autonomy

Roles of the Dental Hygienist:

Activities of the dental hygienist include but are not limited to, those of clinician, educator, advocate, administrator/manager, and researcher, with public health being an integral component of all these roles.

Roles of the Dental Hygienist

Self Regulation:

Regulation of the practice of dental hygiene in which dental hygienists who are graduates of accredited dental hygiene programs are authorized by state government to define the scope of practice of dental hygiene and to license, regulate and discipline dental hygienists.

Self Regulation

White paper:

An authoritative report or guide that provides information about emerging knowledge and issues on a specific topic.

White Paper