

Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Registered Dental Hygienist**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Registered Dental Hygienist provides clinical oral health care services, health promotion and preventive educational programs. Registered Dental Hygienists perform their work in a variety of settings including facilities, schools and community sites. This position examines and charts oral conditions, assesses periodontal status, analyzes and interprets client's condition to develop a client centered diagnosis/assessment and treatment plan.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

Core Duties

- Assesses, diagnoses and treats oral health conditions and dental pathology through the provision of therapeutic, educational and preventive dental hygiene procedures.
- Performs health promotion activities and provides dental health education and/or clinical services.
- Collects, analyzes and interprets data to assess the oral health status of targeted individuals or populations.
- Monitors, assesses and evaluates the need for oral/dental health programs for individual clients, targeted populations and/or communities.
- Develops and evaluates resource material for education purposes.
- Provides public education regarding oral health. Educates clients and caregivers regarding preventive oral health.
- Develops and provides in-service and training sessions.
- Conducts oral health assessments to detect oral pathology for the attention of the dentist.
- Provides dental screening and preventive dental services to schools.
- Participates in the development, implementation and evaluation of oral health programs.

Other Related Duties

- Develops and promotes oral health through media releases.
- Recommends utilization and/or purchase of equipment, materials and supplies.
- May administer nitrous oxide, local anesthetic and/or prescribes Schedule 1 drugs with special authorization from their regulatory body.

Leadership

- Provides leadership in the planning and implementation of oral health services for public/population health.
- Promotes clinical services through public health programs and community agencies.
- Precepts Registered Dental Hygiene students.
- Provides education to other health care providers.
- Provides orientation and mentorship to new staff and volunteers.

Decision-Making

- Interprets x-rays, makes diagnosis within scope of practice and develops appropriate treatment plan.

Knowledge:

Education

- Extended Diploma in Dental Hygiene from an accredited institution.

Additional Qualification/Designations/Certifications

- May require special authorization from the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) to perform restricted activities as specified in the Regulations.

Registration Requirements

- Registered with the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA).

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Lifts and transports supplies, displays and equipment.
- Sitting, bending, reaching and twisting for prolonged periods.
- Frequent repetitive motion.

Work Environment

- Travel in all weather/road conditions.
- Work is subject to exposure to bio-hazardous materials, radiation and chemical hazards.
- Required to wear protective equipment.
- Exposure to verbally/physically aggressive clients and/or families.