

# Direct Access States

For purposes of this document, direct access means that the dental hygienist can initiate treatment based on his or her assessment of patient's needs without the specific authorization of a dentist, treat the patient without the presence of a dentist, and can maintain a provider-patient relationship.



## **Alaska 2008**

**AS 08.32.115**

### **Collaborative Agreement:**

Hygienist may provide services according to terms of collaborative agreement. Dentist's presence, diagnosis or treatment plan is not required unless specified by agreement. Care under the agreement can be provided in settings outside of a dentist's "usual place of practice" (i.e. private dental office).

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have minimum of 4,000 hours of clinical experience within preceding 5 years. Agreement must be approved by state board of dental examiners.

*Services:* Agreement can authorize nearly the entire dental hygiene scope of practice (patient education, prophylaxis, sealants, x-rays, etc).

### *Notes:*

- Dentists are limited to 5 or less collaborative agreements with dental hygienists.



## **Arizona 2006**

**32-1289B**

Dental hygienist working under contract for schools, public health settings and institutions may screen and apply fluoride unsupervised.

## **Arizona 2004**

**Sec. 32-1281 H, 3212-89**

### **Affiliated Practice Agreement:**

A dental hygienist with a written affiliated practice agreement may perform dental hygiene services on patients who meet certain financial criteria and are enrolled in a federal, state, county or local healthcare program. Written agreement must be submitted to state board of dental examiners. Hygienists must refer patients for additional treatment by a dentist within 12 months of first treatment.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have 5 years of practice experience and have been actively engaged in dental practice for at least 2,000 hours in the preceding 5 years.

*Services:* The agreement must outline practice settings and services provided (nearly all of dental hygiene scope aside from root planing, local anesthesia, and nitrous oxide are allowed).

### *Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



## **California 2002**

**Sec 1763 (a) 2002**

Any dental hygienist may provide screening, apply fluorides and sealants without supervision in government created or administered public health programs.

## **California 1998**

### **Sec. 1774, 1775**

#### **Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP):**

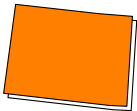
RDHAPs may provide unsupervised services for homebound persons or at schools, residential facilities, institutions and in dental health professional shortage areas. RDHAPs can offer a patient care for up to 18 months and provide additional care if the patient obtains a prescription from a dentist or physician.

*Special Requirements:* RDHAP must have a Bachelors degree (or equivalent), 3 years of clinical experience, completion of additional 150 clock hours in designated courses and pass exam. RDHAP must provide board with documentation of an existing relationship with at least one dentist for referral, consultation, and emergency services.

*Services:* All services permitted under general supervision, including prophylaxis, root planing, pit and fissure sealants, charting and examination of soft tissue.

#### *Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement is allowed.



## **Colorado 1987**

### **Sec. 12-35-122.5**

#### **Unsupervised Practice:**

There is no requirement that a dentist must authorize or supervise most dental hygiene services. Hygienist may also own a dental hygiene practice.

*Special Requirements:* None.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide dental hygiene diagnosis, x-rays, remove deposits, accretions, and stains, curettage without anesthesia, apply fluorides and other recognized preventive agents, topical anesthetic, oral inspection and charting. Local anesthesia requires general supervision.

#### *Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



## **Connecticut 1999**

### **Section 20-126I**

#### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

Dental hygienists with 2 years experience may practice without supervision in institutions, public health facilities, group homes and schools.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have at least 2 years of experience.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide oral prophylaxis, remove deposits, accretions and stains, root planing, sealants, assessment, treatment planning and evaluation.

#### *Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



### **Idaho 2004**

**I.C. 54-903 (9) / 54-904**

**Extended Access Endorsement:**

Hygienist can provide services in hospitals, long term care facility, public health facility, health or migrant clinic or other board approved setting if the dentist affiliated with setting authorizes services.

*Special requirements:* Hygienist must be an employee of the facility or obtain extended care permit. ECP requires 1,000 hours experience in last 2 years.

*Services:* As determined by authorizing dentist.



### **Iowa 2004**

**Rule 650-10.5 (153)**

**Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

Hygienist may administer care based on standing orders and a written agreement with a dentist. Services can be administered in schools, Head Start settings, nursing facilities FQHCs, public health vans, free clinics, community centers and public health programs.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have 3 years of clinical experience and must submit an annual report to the state department of health noting the number of patients treated/services administered.

*Services:* All services in the dental hygiene scope (except local anesthesia and nitrous) may be provided once to each patient. In order to offer repeat services other than assessment, screening and fluoride, a dentist must examine the patient.



### **Kansas 2003**

**Sec. 65-1456**

**Extended Care Permit I & II (ECP):**

Hygienist may practice without the prior authorization of a dentist if the hygienist has an agreement with sponsoring dentist who will monitor his/her practice. Examples of settings are schools, Head Start programs, state correctional institutions, local health departments, indigent care clinics, and in adult care homes, hospital long term units, or at the home of homebound persons on medical assistance. The ECP I permit authorizes treatment on children in various limited access categories, while the EPT II permit is for seniors and persons with developmental disabilities.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have 1,200 clinical hours or 2 year teaching in last 3 years for ECP I; 1,800 hours or 2 years teaching in last 3 years plus 6 hour course for ECP II. Hygienist must also carry liability insurance and must be paid by dentist or facility.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, dental hygiene instruction, assessment of the patient's need for further treatment by a dentist, and other services if delegated by the sponsoring dentist.

*Notes:*

- Dentist can only monitor 5 practices.



## **Kentucky 2010**

**313.035**

### **Volunteer Community Health Settings:**

A dental hygienist may provide the services listed below without the supervision of a dentist in volunteer community health settings.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide dental hygiene instruction, nutritional counseling, oral screening with subsequent referral to a dentist, fluoride application, demonstration of oral hygiene technique, and sealants.



## **Maine 2008**

**Sec. B-1. 32 MRSA c. 16, sub-c. 3-B**

### **Independent Practice Dental Hygienist:**

A dental hygienist licensed as an independent practice dental hygienist may practice without supervision by a dentist in all settings.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must possess a bachelor's degree from a CODA accredited dental hygiene program and 2,000 work hours of clinical practice during the two years preceding the application or possess an associate degree from a CODA accredited dental hygiene program and 6,000 work hours of clinical practice during the six years preceding the application. They are also required to provide a referral plan to patients in need of additional care by a dentist.

*Services:* Hygienist may interview patients and record complete medical and dental histories, take and record the vital signs of blood pressure, pulse and temperature, perform oral inspections, recording all conditions that should be called to the attention of a dentist; perform complete periodontal and dental restorative charting; perform all procedures necessary for a complete prophylaxis, including root planing; apply fluoride to control caries; apply desensitizing agents to teeth; apply topical anesthetics; apply sealants; smooth and polish amalgam restorations, limited to slow speed application only; cement pontics and facings outside the mouth; take impressions for athletic mouth guards and custom fluoride trays; place and remove rubber dams; place temporary restorations in compliance with the protocol adopted by the board; and apply topical antimicrobials, excluding antibiotics, including fluoride, for the purposes of bacterial reduction, caries control and desensitization in the oral cavity. The independent practice dental hygienist shall follow current manufacturer's instructions in the use of these medicaments.

## **Maine 2001**

**Rule 02 313 Chap. 1. Sec. 4**

### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

Hygienist may provide services in a public or private school, hospital or other non-traditional practice setting under a public health supervision status granted by the dental board on a case-by-case basis. The hygienist may perform services rendered under general supervision. The dentist should have specific standing orders and procedures to be carried out, although the dentist need not be present when the services have been provided. A written plan for referral or an agreement for follow-up shall be provided by the public health hygienist recording all conditions that should be called to the attention of the dentist. The supervising dentist shall review a summary report at the completion of the program or once a year.

*Special Requirements:* A dental hygienist must apply to the board to practice providing such information the board deems necessary. The board must take into consideration whether the program will fulfill an unmet need, whether a supervising dentist is available and that the appropriate public health guidelines and standards of care can be met and followed.

*Services:* All services that can be provided under general supervision. Dentist's diagnosis for sealants is not needed in public health or school sealant programs.

*Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



### **Massachusetts 2009**

#### **Chap. 112, Sec. 51.**

##### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

Hygienist may provide dental hygiene services without the supervision of a dentist in public health settings including, and not limited to, hospitals, medical facilities, schools, and community clinics. Prior to providing services, a public health dental hygienist must have a written collaborative agreement with a local or state government agency or institution, or licensed dentist that states the level of communication with the dental hygienist to ensure patient health and safety. Public health dental hygienists shall provide patients with a written referral to a dentist and an assessment of further dental needs.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have at least 3 years of full-time clinical experience practicing in a public health setting and any other training deemed appropriate by the department of health.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide full scope of dental hygiene practice services allowed under general supervision in the private office, including prophylaxis, root planing, curettage, sealants and fluoride.

*Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed-*Rules Pending*



### **Michigan 2005**

#### **Sec. 333.16625**

##### **PA 161 Dental Hygienist:**

Hygienist with grantee status can practice in a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. Collaborating dentist need not be present for or authorize treatment, but hygienist must have continuous availability of direct communication with a dentist to establish emergency protocol and review patient records.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must apply to the state department of community health for designation as grantee health agency.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide full scope of dental hygiene services allowed under general supervision, including prophylaxis, sealants, and fluoride treatments.



### **Minnesota 2001**

#### **Section 150A. 10, Subd. 1a**

##### **Collaborative Practice:**

Hygienist must enter into a written collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist that designates authorization for the services provided by the dental hygienist (agreement need not be submitted to state). Collaborative practice hygienist can be employed or retained by a health care facility, program, or nonprofit organization.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have at least 2,400 hours of clinical experience in the preceding 18 months or a career total of 3,000 hours, including a minimum of 200 hours of clinical practice in two of the past three years. Hygienist must also meet additional continuing education requirements.

*Services:* Collaborative practice hygienist can administer prophylaxis, application of topical preventive and prophylactic agents, application of sealants, fluoride varnishes, coronal polishing, preliminary charting, x-rays and root planing.

*Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



### **Missouri 2001**

#### **Statute 332.311.2**

##### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

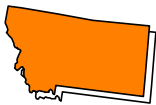
Hygienist may provide services without supervision in public health settings to Medicaid eligible children and can be directly reimbursed by Medicaid.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have 3 years of experience.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide oral prophylaxis, sealants, and fluorides.

*Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



### **Montana 2003**

#### **Sec. 37-4-405**

##### **Public Health Dental Hygienist/Limited Access Permit (LAP):**

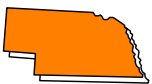
Dental hygienists may obtain a limited access permit to practice under public health supervision in a variety of federally funded health centers and clinics, nursing homes, extended care facilities, home health agencies, group homes for the elderly, disabled, and youth, head start programs, migrant work facilities and local and state public health facilities. Public health supervision means the hygienist can provide services without the authorization of a dentist provided he or she follows protocols to be established by the board and refers any patients needing dental treatment.

*Special requirements:* Hygienist must have 2400 hours experience in the last 3 years; 3000 hours over career with 350 hours each of the last 2 years. An additional 12 hours CE every 2 year and liability insurance is also required.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide prophylaxis, fluoride, root planing, sealants polish restorations, x-rays for diagnosis by a dentists and oral cancer screening.

*Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



### **Nebraska 2007**

#### **Sec. 71-193.18**

##### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

The Department of Health may authorize an unsupervised RDH to provide public health related services in a public health setting or a healthcare or related facility.

*Special requirements:* Hygienist must have 3000 hours experience in at least 4 of last 5 years. Hygienist must also have professional liability insurance.

*Services:* Hygienist can perform prophylaxis for a healthy child, pulp vitality testing and preventive measures including fluorides and sealants.

*Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



### **New Hampshire 1993**

**Rule 302.02(d); 402.01 (c)**

#### **Public Health Supervision:**

Hygienist may treat patients in public or private school, hospital or institution, or residence of a homebound patient. Supervising dentist must authorize hygienist to provide services (i.e. standing orders) but need not be present for care.

*Special Requirements:* None.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide instruction in oral hygiene, topical fluorides, oral prophylaxis, assess medical/dental history, periodontal probing/charting, and sealants.



### **New Mexico 2007**

**Sec. 61-5-C**

No supervision required for any dental hygienist to apply fluorides, and remineralization agents.

### **New Mexico 1999**

**Sec. 61-5A-4D, Rule 16.5.17**

#### **Collaborative Practice:**

Hygienist can practice in any setting with collaborative agreement and can own or manage a collaborative dental hygiene practice. Hygienist must enter into a written agreement with one or more collaborative dentist(s) which must contain protocols for care. Hygienist must refer patients for annual dental exam.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have 2400 hours of active practice in preceding 18 months or 3000 hours in 2 of the past 3 years.

*Services:* Collaborative practice hygienist can provide preliminary assessment, x- rays, oral prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, and root planing, depending on the specific services allowed in agreement with collaborating dentist.

*Notes:*

- Dentist may not collaborate with more than 3 hygienists.
- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



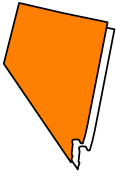
### **New York 2005**

**Rules Sec. 61.9**

#### **General Supervision:**

Hygienist can initiate patient care in any public or private setting. Dentist must authorize (i.e. issue standing orders) for dental hygienist and be available for consultation, diagnosis, and evaluation.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide prophylaxis, root planing, fluoride treatments, patient education, charting, and x-rays without a prior dental examination, the presence of a dentist, or need to refer to a dentist.



### **Nevada 1998**

#### **Sec. 631.287**

##### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

Dental hygienists may obtain approval to work as public health dental hygienists in schools, community centers, hospitals, nursing homes and such other locations as the state dental health officer deems appropriate without supervision.

##### *Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



### **Ohio 2010**

#### **Sec. 4715.363**

##### **Oral Health Access Supervision Permit Program:**

Dental Hygienists who possess an oral health access supervision permit may provide dental hygiene services through a written agreement with a dentist in public health settings including, and not limited to, health care facility, state correctional institutions, residential facilities, schools, shelters for victims of domestic abuse or runaways, foster homes, nonprofit clinics, dispensaries, mobile dental clinic. Prior to providing services, a dental hygienist with an oral health access supervision permit must have a written agreement with a dentist, who possesses an oral health supervision permit, that states the dentist has evaluated the dental hygienists skills and the dentist has reviewed and evaluated the patient's health history. The dentist need not be present or examine the patient before the dental hygienist may provide care. The collaborating dentist must perform a clinical evaluation of the patient before the dental hygienist may provide subsequent care. The evaluation may be done using electronic communication.

*Special Requirements:* Two years and a minimum of three thousand hours of clinical experience; minimum of twenty-four continuing education credits during the two years prior to apply for the oral health access supervision permit including a course identification and prevention of potential medical emergencies; and completed an oral health access supervision permit class approved by the board.

*Services:* Prophylactic, preventive and other procedures a dentist can delegate to a hygienist except definitive root planing, definitive subgingival curettage, administration of local anesthesia and other procedures specified in rules adopted by the board.



### **Oklahoma 2003**

#### **Sec. 328.34 C**

##### **General Supervision:**

Hygienist may provide services outside of the private dental office for a patient not examined by the dentist. Dentist must authorize care in writing.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have at least two years of experience.

*Services:* Most dental hygiene services, including sealants, fluorides, and prophylaxis, to a patient one time prior to a dental exam.



## **Oregon 1997**

**Sec. 680.200**

**Rule 818-035-0065**

### **Limited Access Permit (LAP):**

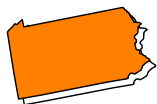
Dental hygienists who have obtained a limited access permit (LAP) may initiate unsupervised services for patients in a variety of limited access settings such as extended care facilities, facilities for the mentally ill or disabled, correctional facilities, schools and pre-schools, medical offices or offices operated or staffed by a nurse practitioner midwives or physicians assistants, and job training centers. Hygienist must refer the patient annually to a licensed dentist available to treat the patient.

*Special requirements:* Hygienist must have 2,500 hours of supervised dental hygiene practice; and completed 40 hours of board approved courses in an accredited dental hygiene program or completed a course of study approved by the board that includes at least 500 hours of dental hygiene practice on limited access patients while under direct faculty supervision. Hygienist must also have liability insurance.

*Services:* LAP Hygienists can provide all dental hygiene services, except that some (local anesthesia, pit and fissure sealants, denture relines, temporary restorations, radiographs and nitrous oxide) must be supervised by a dentist. Hygienist may prescribe fluorides and assess the need for sealants.

### *Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.



## **Pennsylvania 2007**

**Sec. 2 (Definitions), Sec. 11.9**

### **Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner:**

Dental hygienists who are certified as public health dental hygiene practitioners may provide care in a variety of public health settings without the supervision or prior authorization of a dentist.

*Special requirements:* Hygienist must have 3,600 hours experience and liability insurance. Hygienist must also complete 5 hours of continuing education in public health during each licensure period.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide educational, preventive, therapeutic, and intra-oral services, including complete prophylaxis and sealants, dental hygienists in the state are authorized to provide.



## **Rhode Island 2006**

**Sec. 5-31.1-6.1**

### **General Supervision:**

Dental hygienists working under a dentist's general supervision can initiate dental hygiene treatment to residents of nursing facilities. Dental hygienists working in nursing facilities can treat patients, regardless of whether or not the patient is a patient of record, as long as documentation of services administered is maintained and necessary referrals for follow-up treatment are made.

*Special Requirements:* None.

*Services:* Hygienist can initiate dental hygiene services, including oral health screening assessments, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, charting, and other duties delegable under general supervision.



### **South Carolina 2003**

#### **Sec. 40-15-110 (A) (10)**

##### **General Supervision:**

Hygienists employed by, or contacted through, the Department of Health and Environment Control may provide services under general supervision that does not require prior examination by a dentist in settings such as schools or nursing homes.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must carry professional liability insurance.

*Services:* Hygienist employed by, or contacted through, the Department of Health and Environment Control may provide prophylaxis, fluorides, and sealants.



### **Texas 2001**

#### **Sec. 262.1515**

##### **General Supervision:**

Hygienist may provide services for up to 6 months without dentist seeing the patient. Services may be performed in school based health center, nursing facility, or community health center. Hygienist must refer the patient to a dentist following treatment and may not perform a second set of services until the patient has been examined by a dentist.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have at least two years of experience.

*Services:* No limitations. Dentist must authorize services in writing.



### **Vermont 2008**

#### **Rule 10.2**

##### **General Supervision Agreement:**

Hygienist may provide services in a public or private school or institution under the supervision of a dentist via a general supervision agreement. The agreement authorizes the hygienist to provide services, agreed to between the dentist and the dental hygienist. The agreement does not require physical presence of the dentist but it stipulates that the supervising dentist review all patient records.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have three years licensed clinical practice experience.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide sealants, fluoride varnish, prophylaxis and x-rays; periodontal maintenance is allowable to patients with mild periodontitis.

### **Virginia 2009 – Pilot Project**

#### **Sec. 54.1-2722**

##### **Remote Supervision:**

Virginia Pilot Project seeks to assess the impact dental hygienists practicing in an expanded capacity under remote supervision have on increasing access to dental health care for underserved populations. Hygienists may treat patients in the dental health professional shortage areas of Cumberland Plateau, Lenowisco and Southside counties. Hygienist will refer patients without a dental provider to a dentist with the goal of establishing a dental home. Hygienists must enter into a remote supervision agreement with a licensed dentist and maintain regular, periodic communication – 14 day intervals- with the licensed dentist (protocol must be submitted to Department of Health).

*Special Requirements:* Hygienists must have two years of experience and must be employed by the Department of Health.

*Services:* Hygienists can provide initial examination of teeth and surrounding areas, prophylaxis, scaling, sealants, topical fluoride, education services, assessment and screening.

### **Washington 2007**

#### **Sec. 18.29.056**

##### **Off-Site Supervision:**

Hygienist can provide care to patients in “senior centers” if hygienist has a written agreement with dentist to provide “off-site” supervision.

*Special Services:* Hygienist must have two years of clinical experience. Hygienist must collect patient data to submit to the Department of Health.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide prophylaxis, root planing, curettage, and apply preventive agents.

### **Washington 2001**

#### **Sec. 18.29.220**

##### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

Dental hygienists who are school endorsed may assess for and apply sealants and fluoride varnishes and perform prophylaxis in community-based sealant programs carried out in schools.

*Special Requirements:* Sealant/Fluoride Varnish Endorsement from Department of Health. Hygienist must submit data to the Department of Health concerning patient demographics, treatment, reimbursement, referrals, etc.

### **Washington 1984**

#### **Sec. 18.29.056**

##### **Unsupervised Practice:**

Unsupervised practice in hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, group homes (for the elderly, handicapped or youth), state institutions under department of health and human services, jails, and public health facilities provided the hygienist refers patient to a dentist for dental treatment and needed care.

*Special requirements:* Hygienist must have two years clinical experience within the last five years.

*Services:* Hygienist can provide prophylaxis, application of typical preventive or prophylactic agents, polishing and smoothing restorations root planing, and curettage.

##### *Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.

### **West Virginia 2008**

#### **Sec. 5-1-8.5**

##### **Public Health Dental Hygienist:**

Hygienist may provide care in hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, jails, community clinics, long term care facilities, nursing homes, home health agencies, group homes, state institutions under the Department of Health and Human Resources, public health facilities, homebound settings and Accredited Dental Hygiene Education programs. Dentist must authorize hygienist to provide care (i.e. standing orders) but need not be present have previously seen patient.

*Special Requirements:* Hygienist must have two years and 3,000 hours of clinical experience and take six additional continuing education hours. Hygienist and dentist must submit annual written report of care to state board of dental examiners.



*Services:* Hygienist can provide patient education, nutritional counseling, oral screening with referral to dentist, apply fluoride, and offer a complete prophylaxis (pursuant to a collaborative agreement or written order.)



**Wisconsin 2007**

**Sec. 447.06**

The statute does not require the presence or supervision of a dentist in a public or private school, a dental or dental hygiene school or a facility owned by a local health department.

*Special Requirements:* None

*Services:* Hygienist can provide prophylaxis, root planing, screening, treatment planning, sealants and delegable duties.

*Notes:*

- Direct Medicaid reimbursement allowed.

