



American Dental Hygienists' Association Launches New Clinical Standards for Dental Hygiene Practice

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) has launched the *Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice*. The *Standards* will serve as a resource for the more than 150,000 dental hygienists in the United States. The ADHA officially approved the *Standards for Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice* in March 2008. With support from Philips Sonicare, the ADHA has distributed the *Standards* to each of its members as a supplement to the May/June issue of *Access* magazine, and has provided a downloadable version on the ADHA Web site.

COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONALISM

- The new *Standards* demonstrate the ADHA's continued commitment to the dental hygiene profession by providing a framework for clinical practice focused on patient-centered and evidence-based care.
- The *Standards*:
 - Build on the *Applied Standards of Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice* that the ADHA first developed in 1985.
 - Were developed by a specially-designated task force and underwent OR with extensive validation by dental hygienists including both ADHA members and non-members, various communities of interest and ADHA officers.
 - Promote knowledge and practices to support oral health with the ultimate goal of improving overall health.
 - Serve two ultimate purposes:
 - To assist dental hygiene clinicians in practice.
 - To educate other healthcare providers, policy makers and the general public about the clinical practice and profession of dental hygiene.

SIX STANDARDS

- In addition to the five core components of dental hygiene care, the ADHA has expanded the process to include a new standard, *documentation*.
- The current six standards are:
 - **Assessment:** Collection, analysis and documentation of a patient's oral and overall health status and needs
 - **Dental Hygiene Diagnosis:** An analysis of assessment data, and the use of critical decision making skills by drawing conclusions about a patient's dental hygiene treatment needs
 - **Planning:** Establishment of goals and outcomes based on a patient's needs, expectations, values, and current scientific evidence; to be integrated within the overall dental treatment plan
 - **Implementation:** Delivery of dental hygiene services in a way that minimizes risk and optimizes oral health
 - **Evaluation:** Ongoing review and documentation of the outcomes of dental hygiene care

- **Documentation:** Complete and accurate recording of all information relevant to patient care

About ADHA

ADHA is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of the more than 150,000 dental hygienists across the country. Dental hygienists are preventive oral health professionals, licensed in dental hygiene, who provide educational, clinical and therapeutic services that support total health through the promotion of optimal oral health. For more information about ADHA, dental hygiene or the link between oral health and general health, visit ADHA at <http://www.adha.org>.

About Philips Sonicare

The Philips Sonicare brand is a market leader in oral health care innovation; backed by more than 140 publications and abstracts representing clinical and laboratory studies conducted at more than 40 universities and research institutes worldwide. Philips Sonicare power toothbrushes are proven to promote oral health, from reducing plaque biofilm build-up to improving overall gum health and have demonstrated the ability to encourage more consistent brushing between dental visits. Philips Sonicare is the number-one power toothbrush brand recommended by U.S. dental professionals. More information is available at www.sonicare.com/dp.

These standards are made available through support from Philips Sonicare.

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