



Date: May 20, 2022
 To: ADHA Board of Trustees
 From: JoAnn Gurenlian, Director of Education & Research
 SUBJECT: HOD Referral of PR-17

During the 2021 House of Delegates Meeting, the following was referred to the Board of Trustees to report back to the 2022 House of Delegates:

PR-17: That, ADHA adopt the following policy: Support maintaining a document on guidelines for displaying hygienist credentials.

Staff investigated what similar associations suggest regarding credentialing and are bringing forth the following:

Recommendation 1: Recommended Use of Credential Designations

ADHA seeks to offer guidance on the use of abbreviated designations after a dental hygienist’s name to ensure that everyone understands the significance and value of their credentials.

Recommended order of acceptable designations by category:

First designation: dental hygienist by licensure	RDH, LDH
Second designation: additional highest earned dental hygiene-related degree	BS/BSDH, MS/MSDH
Third designation: highest other earned academic degrees	AuD, BA, BS, MPH, MA, MBA, RN, MEd, EdD, PhD, (and others as identified)
Fourth designation: significant awards and honors, i.e. Fellowships	AFAAOM, FSCDH
Fifth designation: other valid certifications from recognized accredited programs that recognize additional skills	Myofunctional therapy (OMT), etc.

Note: Not all dental hygiene degrees are BSDH or MSDH; many are BS/MS with a specialization in dental hygiene.

Justification:

These designations provide guidance in identifying corresponding credentials in a uniform way that also increases public awareness of the significance and value of the honors achieved.