



Arizona

Dental Hygienists' Association

# POLICY MANUAL

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**Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association**

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## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

6-80

The ASDHA defines acceptable continuing education guidelines as those courses:

1. Which apply to the practice of dental hygiene and promotes optimum health and service to the public
2. Are related to the behavioral sciences, management, and administrative programs
3. In organizational development related to leadership conferences and officer workshops

7-80

The ASDHA continue to support cooperative interaction with accredited institutions that provide continuing education.

12-91

The ASDHA advocates continuing education for all dental hygienists to maintain professional competence and to expand scientific knowledge.

## **DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION**

3-80

The ASDHA supports and encourages the delegation of additional functions to dental hygienists provided that such delegation is based on competence resulting from specific education.

4-80

All persons performing dental hygiene functions should be trained at comparable levels of academic and clinical proficiency or shall pass a challenge examination at equal academic and clinical proficiency levels.

3-81

Formal Board of Dental Examiners approved education be required of any dental personnel who administers or monitors nitrous oxide analgesia.

14-82

The ASDHA supports the concept of a dental hygienist as director of dental hygiene programs.

22-89

The ASDHA supports ADHA 2-89 as follows: The ADHA opposes any reduction of educational standards and or requirements for initial licensure of dental hygienists.

25-89

The ASDHA opposes preceptorship training for the practice of dental hygiene.

1-97

The ASDHA supports expansion of quality, accredited hygiene programs upon valid and reliable demonstration of a need for additional dental hygienists in the work force.

2-05

The ASDHA advocates the baccalaureate degree as entry level for dental hygiene education and supports all aspects of formal dental hygiene education which includes certificate, associate, baccalaureate and graduate degrees by an accredited dental hygiene program. The programs shall require a minimum of two academic years of curriculum in a college or institution of higher education. Each level contributes to the advancement of dental hygiene as a profession.

2-09

The ASDHA supports articulation agreements between community college dental hygiene programs and universities for baccalaureate degree completion.

5-15

The ASDHA advocates inter-professional education for dental hygiene students and continuing education opportunities for registered dental hygienists to prepare for team based practice models.

## **DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICE**

54-80

Supervision of the RDH for the performance of preventive or oral prophylactic procedures in unnecessary.

55-80

The ASDHA supports ADHA 45-77 as follows: That the ADHA endorses the implementation of the scope of dental hygiene practice through alternative methods of practice in a variety of settings which would enable the dental hygienists to become a primary care provider of preventive services, thereby delivering increased health care to a greater percentage of the population.

56-80

The ASDHA believe the dental hygienists, as the primary care provider of preventive services, accepts the responsibility for her/his professional services rendered to the patient.

57-80

The ASDHA endorses the broadening scope of dental hygiene practice within the state law.

58-80

The ASDHA supports the establishment of public and private dental health programs.

6-81

The ASDHA endorses the direction of the following ADHA resolutions: 46-80: "The concept that a licensed dental hygienists who has graduated from a dental hygiene program

accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation may own a dental hygiene practice, own the dental hygiene portion of a dental practice or enter in a contractual arrangement to provide dental hygiene practice services in accordance with state dental/dental hygiene practice acts"; 8-80: "that dental supervision of the patient's comprehensive oral health care is more important to the public interest than supervision of the dental hygienist and that the dental hygienist is responsible for the patient's oral health care as it related to dental hygiene practice and is capable of providing dental hygiene services without supervision"; 27-80: "which is the definition of primary care and recognition of the hygienist as a primary care provider".

6-82

The ASDHA supports ADHA 42-81 as follows: believes that the practice of dental hygiene is an integral part of the dental health area delivery system and that services provided by dental hygienists must be performed in cooperation with the dental profession and within the context of the overall dental health needs of the patient.

4-83

The ASDHA supports the evaluation of the patient's needs prior to the exposure of dental radiographs.

10-83

The ASDHA encourages the practice of measuring and recording blood pressure on patients as an important aspect of evaluating a patient's health.

12-83

The ASDHA supports the use of appropriate monitoring devices by hygienists practicing in a setting where ionizing radiation is used.

3-88

The ASDHA supports the use of optimal personal and patient protective procedures in accordance with nationally accepted guidelines in every clinical dental setting, without discrimination and that dental hygienists remain updated on the prevention and transmission of infectious diseases.

5-88

The ASDHA opposes direct supervision, as defined by the Arizona Dental Practice Act, of any and all dental hygiene procedures.

6-88

The ASDHA recognizes that dental hygienists, as primary care providers, are eligible for direct reimbursement.

1-89

The ASDHA reaffirms ASDHA 6-81, that the dental hygienist is responsible for the patient's oral health care as it relates to dental hygiene practice and is capable of providing dental hygiene services without supervision.

7-89

The ASDHA recognizes Carpel Tunnel Syndrome and Repetitive Strain Injury as occupational disabilities for dental hygienists.

23-89

The ASDHA supports third party patient reimbursements for covered services performed by dental hygienists which are legally within the scope of dental hygienists.

10-92

The ASDHA supports the current OSHA standards.

3-07

The ASDHA advocate that oral health professionals be aware of and sensitive to cultural and linguistic differences.

5-07

The ASDHA supports utilization of Affiliated Practice dental hygienists to meet the needs of the people of Arizona and expand access to care.

2-15

The ASDHA advocates for the use of teledentistry for collaborative treatment.

3-15

The ASDHA asserts the data gathered by registered dental hygienists through teledentistry shall be considered as valid as an in person examination by the collaborating dentist.

## **ETHICS**

5-80

The ASDHA supports the availability of primary preventive dental programs and emergency dental care to all people.

32-80

The ASDHA members be alert to possible cases of child abuse and to be aware of their professional responsibility to report such cases to the proper authorities.

22-83

The ASDHA supports the concept that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

1-07

The ASDHA believes that dental hygienists are ethically and morally responsible to provide dental hygiene care to all patients using standard precautions.

5-02

The ASDHA shall not endorse any products or services.

1-04

The ASDHA supports the concept of scope of practice violations being reported to the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners anonymously.

## LICENSURE

1-73

The ASDHA supports continuing education requirements for dental hygiene licensure renewal. Some provisions to be made for out of state and retired hygienists licensed in Arizona.

2-80

The ASDHA supports the concept of yearly certification of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation as a requirement for licensure for Arizona practicing dentists and dental hygienists.

15-84

The ASDHA supports licensure by testing theory and clinical proficiency through a written examination and the Western Regional Examining Board's clinical examination in order to maintain a high quality of care for the consumer.

6-90

The ASDHA shall support increased dental hygiene representation on the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners.

7-91

The ASDHA supports the concept of self-regulation of the dental hygiene profession.

2-04

The ASDHA supports only graduates of an accredited program of dental hygiene be eligible for dental hygiene licensure.

10-91

The ASDHA supports licensure by credentials for licensed dental hygienists who graduate from a program in dental hygiene which has a minimum of two academic years of curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the ADHA, the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and or the United states Department of Education, whose credentials have been individually reviewed by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners or State Board of Dental Hygiene, should one exist, and have fulfilled the criteria for documentation of professional competency.

1-04

The ASDHA support the concept of scope of practice violations being reported to the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners anonymously.

2-04

The ASDHA supports only graduates of an accredited program of dental hygiene be eligible for dental hygiene licensure.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

2-84

The ASDHA supports the ADHA Dental Health Initiative: a long term message on dental health and how it relates to total body health, the implementation of which will be four-fold:

1. To increase access to care of the homebound, aged and other special populations.
2. To sponsor areas of research regarding the best means of achieving optimum preventive care, ie: California Health Manpower Project.
3. To design educational programs that will help consumers translate the need for care into demand for care.
4. Through legislative remedies, to increase public dental care IQ and to increase access to and use of preventive services.

4-88

The ASDHA supports water fluoridation as a safe and effective procedure for reducing the incidence of dental caries.

1-92

The ASDHA be supportive of using recyclable/biodegradable products.

3-95

The ASDHA advocates involvement of dental hygienists in tobacco use prevention and cessation activities.

4-07

The ASDHA supports the role of Arizona based oral health coalitions.

1-08

The ASDHA endorses the use of xylitol for its preventive and therapeutic benefits.

2-08

The ASDHA endorses establishing the requirement of mandatory comprehensive oral health examinations or assessments for all students prior to entry into primary, middle and secondary schools or a new school district. Comprehensive examinations should be done by licensed dental hygienists or dentists who would refer for appropriate follow up care.

4-08

The ASDHA supports oral health for all children through early intervention, prevention and a dental assessment by one year of age.

1-11

The ASDHA will work with key stakeholders to improve access to oral health care in underserved areas.

1-15

The ASDHA advocates the development of and funding for the implementation of a statewide oral health plan to reduce the prevalence of oral disease in Arizona.



4-15

The ASDHA advocates the inclusion of preventive and restorative dental care as a medical necessity for Medicare beneficiaries.