



Arizona

Dental Hygienists' Association

POLICY MANUAL

UPDATED 2020

Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association

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INTRODUCTION TO THE POLICY MANUAL

The AzDHA Policy Manual contains major policies adopted by the General Assembly. Together with ADHA Policy Manual, these collections of definitive statements reflect the Association's attitudes and serves to guide and determine present and future planning. Most importantly, they provide the impetus for our advocacy work.

Once adopted, a policy remains in effect until the General Assembly amends, rescinds or retires it. Members attending the General Assembly should familiarize themselves with both the AzDHA Policy Manual as well as the ADHA Policy Manual. AzDHA has taken the position that, as a tripartite organization, the policies of ADHA, as established by the ADHA House of Delegates which includes Arizona representation, are applicable to Arizona and need not be duplicated in the AzDHA Policy Manual.

The AzDHA Board of Directors periodically appoints a task force to review the AzDHA Policy Manual for relevance and to recommend amendments to existing policies or to retire or rescind redundant or outdated policies.

Retired policies will be archived in a separate Retired Policy Archive and available for review upon request by any member.

How to Use Your Policy Manual

Policy Statements are categorized under a major heading: Refer to the Table of Contents.

Each policy statement is further identified by a number:

1st # - Number assigned to the proposed resolution (PR) when it was adopted by the General Assembly

2nd # - Year the policy was most recently amended or adopted

1st # after / - Number assigned to the PR when originally adopted

2nd # after / - The year the policy was originally adopted

The letter "S" following any PR number denotes it was a substitute resolution

The AzDHA Policy Manual is available to the public on azdha.org.

What is Not in the Policy Manual

The Policy Manual does not include "directives" which are specific statements or requests that some action should be taken. These statements, should they arise and be supported at the General Assembly would be forwarded to the Board of Directors for further consideration and implementation if possible. The Board of Directors must consider the impact on Association resources prior to fulfilling directives passed by the General Assembly.

The Policy Manual does not include administrative procedures which guide the Board of Directors to effectively and efficiently manage our organization. If members have suggestions to improve how the organization is managed, they are encouraged to reach out directly to the Board of Directors or take their ideas to the leadership of their local component.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

6-80

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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 Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association continue to support cooperative interaction with accredited institutions that provide continuing education.

12-91

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association advocates continuing education for all dental hygienists to maintain professional competence and to expand scientific knowledge.

DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION

3-80

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

3S-20/3-81

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that all dental personnel complete academic coursework or continuing dental education activities that include both theory and supervised clinical practice before administering or monitoring nitrous oxide – oxygen analgesia.

14-82

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports the concept of a dental hygienist as director of dental hygiene programs.

22-89

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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 Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association opposes preceptorship training for the practice of dental hygiene.

1-97

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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 Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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 Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports articulation agreements between community college dental hygiene programs and universities for baccalaureate degree completion.

DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGY

54-80

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

55-80

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

6-82

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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 Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports the evaluation of the patient's needs prior to the exposure of dental radiographs.

10-83

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

3-88

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

6-88

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association recognizes that dental hygienists, as primary care providers, are eligible for direct reimbursement.

1-89

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association reaffirms Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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.

23-89

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports third party patient reimbursements for covered services performed by dental hygienists which are legally within the scope of dental hygienists.

10-92

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports the current OSHA standards.

3-07

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association advocate that oral health professionals be aware of and sensitive to cultural and linguistic differences.

2-15

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for the use of teledentistry for collaborative treatment.

5-20S/3-15

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association affirms that a telehealth-enabled examination is a valid substitute for an in-person examination and supports telehealth parity.

ETHICS

5-80

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports the availability of primary preventive dental programs and emergency dental care to all people.

32-80

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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.

1-07

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association believes that dental hygienists are ethically and morally responsible to provide dental hygiene care to all patients using standard precautions.

8-20S/5-02

The Arizona Dental Hygienists Association endorses dental products and services that are supported by evidence-based research.

LICENSURE AND REGULATION

1-73

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

7-91

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports the concept of self-regulation of the dental hygiene profession.

2-04

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports only graduates of an accredited program of dental hygiene be eligible for dental hygiene licensure.

10-91

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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.

PUBLIC HEALTH

4-88

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports water fluoridation as a safe and effective procedure for reducing the incidence of dental caries.

3-95

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association advocates involvement of dental hygienists in tobacco use prevention and cessation activities.

4-07

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports the role of Arizona based oral health coalitions.

1-08

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association endorses the use of xylitol for its preventive and therapeutic benefits.

2-08

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association 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 Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports oral health for all children through early intervention, prevention and a dental assessment by one year of age.

1-11

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association will work with key stakeholders to improve access to oral health care in underserved areas.

6-20S/1-15

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association supports the goals of the Arizona State Oral Health Action Plan.

4-15

The Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association advocates the inclusion of preventive and restorative dental care as a medical necessity for Medicare beneficiaries.