

Oklahoma Department of Corrections
Unclassified Job Descriptor

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Basic Purpose:

Positions in this job are assigned professional work in providing dental hygiene services, providing dental examinations, assisting a dentist in providing dental care and treatment, and conducting health care education and training programs in preventive dental care and oral hygiene for a state correctional institution or facility.

Typical Functions:

- Cleans patients' teeth by removing calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from exposed surfaces of teeth and directly beneath the free margins of the gum; and gives topical caries prevention treatment to the coronal surfaces of teeth.
- Under supervision and with specific direction by a dentist: performs functions such as dental charting, periodontal charting, classifying occlusions, placement of temporary fillings, treatment of dry sockets, removing periodontal packs, cleaning of removable prostheses, and performs other dental hygiene functions as allowed by the Oklahoma State Dental Act.
- Prepares patients for treatment; prepares instrument and supplies; cleans and sterilizes dental instruments; organizes instruments for security and safety of others.
- Participates in the training of dental assistants and others in providing dental care; makes dental inspections; provides consultation in dental care and oral hygiene; demonstrates preventive dental care to individuals and groups with the use of models and other visual aids.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of principles and practices of dental hygiene; of the routine terms, instruments, supplies, equipment and procedures used in the operation of dental clinics; of types of sterilization and sterile techniques; of methods of processing and developing x-ray film; of oral anatomy and standards of oral hygiene; of practices of hygiene and nutrition as related to dental health; and of state legislation regarding the provision of dental services. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships; to plan, organize and give dental treatment and dental hygiene examinations; and to provide training and instruction in dental care and oral hygiene.

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Education and Experience:

Statutorily Required: N/A

Minimum Qualifications: Licensure to practice dental hygiene from the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry.

Preferred Qualifications: Licensure to practice dental hygiene from the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry and at least two (2) years experience providing dental hygiene services.