

College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta

**Policy and Requirements Regarding
Entry onto the Roster of Members Authorized to Prescribe the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the
Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation**

Legislative Reference

Section 13(2) of the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation (the "Regulation") states:

"A general member or a courtesy member who has provided evidence satisfactory to the Registrar of having completed and remaining current in the advanced training required by the Council and who has received notification from the Registrar that the authorization is indicated on the general register or the courtesy register is authorized to perform the following restricted activities:

(d) to prescribe the following Schedule 1 drugs within the meaning of Schedule 7.1 to the Government Organization Act for the purpose of treating oral health conditions, providing prophylaxis and treating emergencies:

- i. antibiotics;*
- ii. antifungal agents;*
- iii. anti-infective agents;*
- iv. antiviral agents;*
- v. bronchodilators;*
- vi. epinephrine;*
- vii. fluoride;**
- viii. pilocarpine;*
- ix. topical corticosteroids;*

**fluoride has been reclassified as a natural health product. Currently none of the oral care fluoride products require a prescription.*

(e) to compound, provide for selling or sell, incidentally to the practice of dental hygiene, a Schedule 1 drug or Schedule 2 drug within the meaning of Schedule 7.1 to the Government Organization Act;

Section 14(1) of the Regulation requires that regulated members restrict themselves in performing restricted activities to those activities that they are competent to perform and to those that are appropriate to the member's area of practice and the procedure being performed.

Entry onto the Roster of Authorized Members

The College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA) policy for entry onto the Roster of members authorized to Prescribe the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation is based on a combination of:

- Appropriate education related to the performance of this activity;
- The length of time that has elapsed since an applicant successfully completed their education related to prescribing the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation; and
- The length of time that has passed since the applicant last prescribed the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation.

Appropriate education is the acquisition of the competencies (knowledge, skills, attitude and judgment) required to perform this activity at the required standard of competence. Appropriate education provides sufficient theoretical foundation and clinical experience for the practitioner to practice in a competent, legal, ethical and professional manner.

Eligibility

The Regulation requires advanced training to perform this restricted activity. A regulated member who has successfully completed a prescribing educational course or program that meets the criteria set out in the CRDHA *Competencies Required for Registered Dental Hygienists Prescribing Schedule 1 Drugs* (Appendix 1) may apply for entry onto the CRDHA Roster of members authorized to Prescribe the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation .

Pharmacy: Elements of Prescribing Courses Currently Deemed CRDHA-Council Approved

The CRDHA *Elements of Prescribing: A Pharmacy Refresher* course originally developed by the CRDHA is deemed Council-approved. This course serves as the benchmark course for authorization to perform the restricted activity of prescribing the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation.

Substantial Equivalency

The CRDHA will assess the qualifications and competencies of graduates of an educational course or program related to prescribing the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation other than the Council-approved course, for the purpose of determining substantial equivalence to the qualifications and competencies set out in the CRDHA *Competencies Required for Registered Dental Hygienists Prescribing Schedule 1 Drugs* (Appendix 1).

Application for Entry onto the CRDHA Roster

A regulated member must not prescribe the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation until they have been notified in writing that their application has been approved and their name has been added to the CRDHA's Roster of dental hygienists who are authorized to prescribe the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation .

The information required as part of an application for entry onto the CRDHA Roster may vary depending on the length of time that has lapsed since the applicant completed the CRDHA *Elements of Prescribing: A Pharmacy Refresher* course or a substantially equivalent prescribing educational course or program.

Documentation to be submitted to CRDHA:

- A completed application for entry onto the CRDHA Roster of practitioners authorized to prescribe the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation.
- Evidence (as specified on the application form) of successful completion of appropriate education.
- Evidence of currency in prescribing the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation verifying that they perform these procedures on a regular basis if **more than 12 months** have elapsed since the applicant completed *an Elements of Prescribing: A Pharmacy Refresher course* or an equivalent prescribing educational course or program.

Processing of Applications:

- Each application for entry onto the Roster will be reviewed on an individual basis.
- The Registrar or Registration Committee may request additional information in order to verify an applicant's education related to prescribing the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation (e.g. workbook, manual, summary of experience).
- If the Registrar or Registration Committee is satisfied that the applicant's qualifications and competencies meet the requirements established by Council, the applicant's name will be entered on the CRDHA Roster and a CRDHA Authorization to Prescribe the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation certificate will be issued.
- If the Registrar or Registration Committee is satisfied that the applicant's qualifications and competencies meet the requirements established by Council, but **more than 12 months** have elapsed since the applicant completed the equivalent educational course or program and/or prescribed the Schedule 1 Drugs listed in the Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation on a regular basis, the applicant's name **will not** be entered on the CRDHA Roster and the applicant will be required to successfully complete a prescribing educational course or program equivalent that meets the required competency criteria prior to re-applying for entry onto the CRDHA Roster.
- If the Registrar or Registration Committee is not satisfied that the applicant's qualifications meet the requirements established by Council, the applicant's name **will not** be entered on the CRDHA Roster and the applicant will be required to successfully complete a prescribing educational course or program equivalent that meets the required competency criteria prior to re-applying for entry onto the CRDHA Roster (a refresher course will not be accepted).

- An application for entry onto the Roster may be refused or deferred if the applicant is the subject of investigation or discipline related to unprofessional conduct in any jurisdiction.

Completed Applications

A complete application includes:

- CRDHA Application for a CRDHA Prescriber's ID Number;
- Evidence of successful completion of a prescribing educational course or program that meets the required competency criteria;
- The regulated member meets the currency of practice criteria set out in this Policy.

Course or program providers must issue evidence of successful completion of the Prescribing Schedule 1 drugs course (e.g. transcript from dental hygiene program, certificate of completion from continuing education course).

Timeline for Review of Applications

Notification will generally be given within 7 to 10 working days on receipt of a complete application.

Appendix 1: Competencies Required for Registered Dental Hygienists Prescribing Schedule 1 Drugs

An educational course designed to produce competency in prescribing the following Schedule 1 drugs within the meaning of Schedule 7.1 to the Government Organization Act for the purpose of treating oral health conditions, providing prophylaxis and treating emergencies:

- i. *antibiotics;*
- ii. *antifungal agents;*
- iii. *anti-infective agents;*
- iv. *antiviral agents;*
- v. *bronchodilators;*
- vi. *epinephrine;*
- vii. *fluoride;*
- viii. *pilocarpine;*
- ix. *topical corticosteroids;*

will be considered a CRDHA Council-approved course if it meets the following criteria:

- I. The course content or content covered in the Dental Hygiene program contains a minimum of:
 1. Didactic instruction; and
 2. Clinical experiences with clients or case studies or a combination of both that require issuing a prescription for treating a variety of oral health conditions.
- II. Theoretical content must include:
 1. Review of the principles of drug pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.
 2. The mechanisms of actions, indications for use, potential actions, and contraindications of specific drugs and the implications to dental hygiene therapy.
 3. Implement risk reduction strategies in the management of dental hygiene treatment.
 4. Issue prescriptions which are accurate and complete by incorporating the principles of prescribing drugs in the management of dental hygiene treatment and diagnosis.
 5. Adhere with the requirements for drug storage, disposal and labelling to maintain safe handling of drugs and to protect the safety of clients and the environment.
- III. Clinical content must include:
 1. Client evaluation and oral condition management decision making.
 2. Clear and accurate written and verbal communication.
 3. Issue Prescriptions.
 4. Proper Documentation.

- IV. There must be evidence of an appropriate process for evaluation in both the theoretical and clinical components of the course or program including evidence of acceptable psychometrics to determine the final exam pass score and overall course pass score. Acceptable evaluation pass marks for all aspects of the course must be **70% or higher**.
- V. The Prescribing Schedule 1 drugs competencies must be taught as a component of an accredited¹ dental hygiene undergraduate program or as a continuing education course delivered by an accredited faculty of dentistry or an accredited dental hygiene program.
- VI. The course or program should be held in a properly equipped dental environment which will permit the course participants or undergraduate students to use the techniques being taught on clients whenever possible.
- VII. The course includes the following competency requirements:

Assessment and Diagnosis	
1	Assess health history (i.e. comprehensive medical history).
2	Assess pharmacological actions/interactions based on the client's current health history (e.g. allergies, medications, natural health products [herbal remedies], etc.).
3	Identify clients at risk for medical emergency.
4	Assess contraindications for treatment based on the client's current health history (e.g. pharmacological, active TB, hypertension, etc.).
5	Assess oral manifestations related to disease, pharmaceuticals and/or natural health products.
6	Assess exposure to fluoride (e.g. community levels, prescriptions, mouth rinses, dentifrice use, etc.).
7	Determine the need for fluoride (e.g. for caries, desensitizing, etc.).
8	Determine the need for non-fluoride caries prevention agents (e.g. chlorhexidine mouth rinses, pit and fissure sealants, etc.).
9	Assess the client's need for pharmacotherapeutic agents required during the provision of dental hygiene services (e.g. premedication antibiotics, local anaesthetics, anti-fungal agents, etc.).
10	Assess the need for management of client pain, anxiety and discomfort (e.g. local anaesthetic, anti-anxiety medication, nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation, support, etc.).

¹Accredited means accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada or the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

11	Document all records accurately, legibly, comprehensively, and in compliance with privacy legislation throughout the dental hygiene process of care (i.e. during assessment and diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation).
12	Assess practice environment for safety risks (i.e. for clients, the dental hygienist and others).
13	Assess practice environment for emergency measures (i.e. for clients, the dental hygienist and others).
14	Demonstrate knowledge of and compliance with the CRDHA Standards of Practice throughout the dental hygiene process of care (e.g. Practice Standards, Code of Ethics, guidelines, etc.).
15	Possess knowledge of categories of the Alberta Drug Schedules for prescription and non-prescription drugs and applicable federal/provincial legislation and guidelines related to prescriptive authority.
16	Assess potential actions/interactions and contraindications of medications to be prescribed by the dental hygienist, with reference to the health history (e.g. local anaesthetic, antibiotics, etc.).
17	Assess the need for consultation and referrals within the health care delivery system.
Planning	
18	selects appropriate pharmacotherapeutic agents based on assessment and dental hygiene diagnosis.
19	obtains informed consent for the dental hygiene care plan from the client and/or agent (e.g. therapy, pharmacotherapeutic agents, anaesthetics, etc.).
20	applies knowledge of categories of the Alberta Drug Schedules for prescription and non-prescription drugs and applicable federal/provincial legislation and guidelines related to prescriptive authority when planning dental hygiene services.
21	applies knowledge of the local, provincial and federal legislation and guidelines regarding the acquisition, proper storage and disposal of prescription and non-prescription drugs.
22	selects appropriate pain management strategies (e.g. local anaesthetic, anti-anxiety medication, nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation, support, etc.).
23	selects appropriate local anaesthesia agents.
24	selects evidence-based clinical intervention options based on the assessment data.
25	collaborates with relevant others in planning services/programs (e.g. family members, agents, health care providers, community members, service clubs, other professionals, etc.).
26	develops a sequence for interventions based on the diagnosis.
Implementation	

27	teaches the client and/or agent about the range of available oral care products and their proper selection (e.g. powered toothbrushes, pharmacotherapeutic agents, mouth rinses, tongue scraper, etc.).
28	implements strategies to manage client pain, anxiety and discomfort (e.g. local anaesthetic, anti-anxiety medication, nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation, support, etc.)
29	monitors the client for adverse reactions to interventions.
30	applies principles of risk management for client health and safety (e.g. universal precautions, considering latex allergies, etc.).
31	applies knowledge of the federal/provincial guidelines for drug error management within the practice environment (e.g. prevention of drug errors related to the “five rights” of medication administration).
32	writes or orders legal prescriptions required in dental hygiene practice in compliance with federal and provincial legislation and guidelines.
33	provides instructions and/or teaches post-operative oral self-care (e.g. implant care, surgery, periodontal debridement, effects of anaesthesia, etc.).
34	provides information regarding actions, interactions, and oral manifestations of pharmaceuticals (i.e. prescription and non-prescription drugs including natural health products).
35	ensures provision of care in emergency situations.
36	applies knowledge of the Canadian Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring program guidelines.
37	acts as a client advocate (e.g. assisting the client to find treatment, communicating the client’s needs to other health professionals, etc.).
38	provides information regarding the effects of recreational drug and alcohol abuse on oral health.
39	provides information regarding histology and embryology of oral and dental structures (e.g. cleft palate, hypoplasia, fluorosis, etc.).
40	collaborates with others in providing, maintaining and advocating for oral health care programs.
Evaluation	
41	evaluates the need for further dental hygiene interventions.
42	evaluates the need for further consultation and referrals within the health care delivery system.
43	evaluates compliance with local, provincial and federal legislation and guidelines regarding the acquisition, proper storage and disposal of prescription and non-prescription drugs.

44	evaluates effectiveness of drug error management within the practice environment (e.g. prevention of drug errors related to the “five rights” of medication administration).
45	evaluates compliance with the Canadian Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring program guidelines regarding reporting of adverse drug reactions.
46	evaluates the progress of interventions throughout the dental hygiene process of care (e.g. effectiveness of strategies to manage pain, anxiety and discomfort, etc.).
47	evaluates the client’s behavioural responses to interventions.
48	evaluates the short and long-term effectiveness of interventions by comparing actual outcomes to expected outcomes (e.g. conducting interim evaluations related to periodontal therapy interventions, reassessing the effectiveness of a community program, etc.).
49	evaluates oral biological and physiological outcomes of interventions.
50	modifies interventions based on interim evaluations and discussions with the client and/or agent.
51	modifies goals based on interim evaluations and discussions with the client and/or agent.
52	evaluates own professional performance in relation to the CRDHA standards of practice to facilitate successful dental hygiene interventions (e.g. CRDHA standards include the Practice Standards Document, the Code of Ethics, etc.).