

Standards of Practice



DUTY TO REPORT

STANDARD STATEMENT

The dental hygienist is responsible for being aware of, understanding, and following all mandatory reporting requirements.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

The dental hygienist must...

1. Follow all mandatory self-reporting requirements including, but not limited to:
 - a) any injury, dependency, infection, or any other physical, cognitive, mental and/or emotional condition that has immediately affected, or may affect over time, the dental hygienist's continuing ability to practice safely and competently;
 - b) any findings of professional negligence or malpractice;
 - c) any findings of unprofessional conduct by a regulatory authority in another jurisdiction or by any other college under the Health Professions Act (HPA);
 - d) any charges or convictions of a criminal offense;
 - e) sexual abuse of or sexual misconduct with a client as defined in the HPA.
2. Promptly report another regulated health professional to the relevant college when they have reasonable grounds to believe that the conduct of the regulated health professional places clients at risk or may be considered unprofessional conduct under the HPA.
3. Report another regulated health professional to the relevant college as soon as the dental hygienist has reasonable grounds to believe the regulated health professional is engaging in behaviour that constitutes sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a client, as required by the HPA.
4. Report situations to the proper authorities in compliance with applicable legislation. (e.g., abuse of vulnerable persons in care, children in need of intervention, specified communicable diseases, adverse drug reactions).
5. In the event of a **critical incident** to the client or personnel, submit a written incident report to the College.

CLIENT EXPECTATION

The **client** can expect that the dental hygienist will act in the interest of client safety and report specific situations or incidents to the appropriate authority as required.

GLOSSARY

CRITICAL INCIDENT

A harmful event for a client or personnel, where transfer to hospital with or without admission is necessary.