

Standards of Practice



SUPERVISION OF RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

This standard applies to **supervision** or **direction** of restricted activities as listed in **Schedule 7.1 to the Government Organization Act [will be updated with Bill 46 amendments]**. It does not imply that the College expects or requires the dental hygienist to supervise other regulated health professionals performing restricted activities.

The following students are permitted to perform a restricted activity under the supervision of a dental hygienist in accordance with the Standards of Practice:

- students in an **approved dental hygiene program** leading to initial entry-to-practice as a dental hygienist;
- students in an approved dental hygiene program leading to re-entry to practice as a dental hygienist;
- students in a post-secondary health services program of studies approved by the council of another college under the *Health Professions Act*.

The following dental hygienists are permitted to perform a restricted activity under the supervision of another dental hygienist, in accordance with the standards of practice:

- dental hygienists undergoing training to perform a restricted activity in an **approved advance training program**;
- dental hygienists who require supervision as part of conditions or restrictions on their practice permit.

A dental hygienist may only supervise other regulated health professionals performing restricted activities with prior written authorization from the Registrar. The supervision and performance of the restricted activity must be in accordance with the Standards of Practice set by each regulated health professional's college.

A dental hygienist may also provide **direction** to a registered dental assistant.

STANDARD STATEMENT

The dental hygienist supervises the performance of restricted activities responsibly and within their own scope of practice, competence, and restricted activity authorization. The dental hygienist provides direction to a registered dental assistant in compliance with legislation and Standards of Practice.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

The dental hygienist who consents to supervise must...

1. Document their consent to supervise.
2. Obtain the client's informed consent for the restricted activity to be performed under supervision.
3. Ensure the person performing the restricted activity is clearly identified in the client's record.
4. Only supervise the performance of restricted activities that they themselves are authorized and competent to perform without requiring supervision themselves.
5. Be responsible and accountable for the restricted activity being performed by the supervised person.
6. Continuously assess the knowledge, skill and judgement of the supervised person performing the restricted activity.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

7. Ensure ongoing safety and appropriateness for the supervised person to perform the restricted activity.
8. Employ an appropriate level of supervision (**direct** and/or **indirect**) to maintain client safety and the provision of quality care which considers the competence of the supervised person, the client care needs, and other factors related to the practice environment.
9. Address any competence issues of the supervised person in the performance of the restricted activity.
10. Request authorization from the College prior to supervising restricted activities being performed by another regulated health professional.

The dental hygienist who provides direction to a registered dental assistant must...

1. Be on site and available to assist.
2. Only provide direction for restricted activities that the dental assistant is authorized to perform.
3. When providing direction to a dental assistant performing the restricted activity of cutting a body tissue or performing surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue in or below the surface of teeth, for the purpose of scaling teeth, ensure that the client has been recently assessed by the dental hygienist who has determined that the client has:
 - a. healthy gingival and periodontal tissues or plaque associated gingivitis;
 - b. pockets of 4 mm or less; and
 - c. no overt or radiographic signs of alveolar bone loss.
4. When providing direction to a dental assistant performing the restricted activity of applying any form of ionizing radiation in medical radiography, follow the College's **Ionizing Radiation Standard of Practice**. [This standard of practice will be distributed for consultation in summer 2022.]

CLIENT EXPECTATION

The **client** can expect to be informed of the role of the supervised person and that a supervising dental hygienist is responsible and accountable for the delivery of safe, competent services.

GLOSSARY

APPROVED ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAM

A program in Alberta for training in the performance of specific restricted activities that is approved by the College. The dental hygienist who supervises must be engaged by or approved to supervise by an approved advanced training program.

APPROVED DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

A dental hygiene education program in Alberta approved by Council in accordance with dental hygiene education criteria. The dental hygienist who supervises must be engaged by or approved to supervise by an approved dental hygiene program.

DIRECTION

Performing a restricted activity under the instruction or orders of an authorized practitioner. [\(CLPNA\)](#)

SUPERVISION

The consultation, guidance, and oversight by an authorized practitioner in the practice setting. The authorized practitioner is ultimately accountable for the performance of the restricted activity. Supervision may be direct or indirect.

- **Direct Supervision:** an authorized practitioner is physically present at the point of care.
- **Indirect Supervision:** an authorized practitioner is available for consultation and guidance, but is not required to be physically present at the point of care. This person providing indirect supervision is readily available on site and can provide assistance when needed. [\(CLPNA\)](#)