

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. Self-report the following to the College:
 - 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; and/or
 - e) Sexual abuse of or sexual misconduct with a client as defined in the HPA and the Protecting Patients from Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Standard of Practice.
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, sexual misconduct, or the procurement or performance of female genital mutilation 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).

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

Client: An individual, family, group, community, or organization accessing dental hygiene services. The term client in these standards also includes the client's legal guardian or substitute decision-maker legally authorised to act on behalf of a client when appropriate. An individual client may also be referred to as a patient.

Female genital mutilation: As defined in the [Health Professions Act](#) means "the excision, infibulation or mutilation, in whole or in part, of the labia majora, labia minora, clitoral hood or clitoris of a person, except where valid consent is given, and

(i) a surgical or other procedure is performed by a regulated member under [the HPA] for the benefit of the physical health of the person or for the purpose of that person having normal reproductive functions or normal sexual appearance or function, or

(ii) the person is at least 18 years of age and there is no resulting bodily harm.”

Legislation: Federal or provincial acts, regulations, or codes

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

STANDARD STATEMENT

The dental hygienist is aware of, understands, and practices in compliance with all applicable legislation and regulatory requirements.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

The dental hygienist must...

1. Maintain a level of personal and professional conduct that upholds the integrity and dignity of the profession and sustains public confidence.
2. Be aware of and comply with all **legislation** and regulatory requirements applicable in Alberta (e.g., privacy legislation, health and safety legislation, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, guidelines)
3. Take reasonable steps to ensure policies and procedures in the practice setting follow the legislation and regulatory requirements to which dental hygienists are accountable.
4. Practice under conditions that do not compromise their own professional judgment or integrity.
5. Be accountable for their own actions.
6. Practice within their regulated scope of practice and individual **competence**.
7. Demonstrate sound professional judgment and integrity.
8. Not place another regulated health professional in situations that compromise the other regulated health professional's judgment or integrity.
9. Maintain registration with the College and hold a valid practice permit prior to providing **dental hygiene services**.
10. Confine their practice to only those activities authorized to them by the [Health Professions Act](#) (HPA) and the College.
11. Not engage in behaviour that constitutes sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or the procurement or performance of **female genital mutilation** of a client, as defined by the HPA.
12. Cooperate and comply with the requests of the College and its Council, officials, and committees to enable the College to fulfill its legislated responsibilities.

CLIENT EXPECTATION

The client can expect that the dental hygiene services they receive are provided by a competent dental hygienist who follows all the rules and expectations of the profession.

GLOSSARY

Client: An individual, family, group, community, or organization accessing dental hygiene services. The term client in these standards also includes the client's legal guardian or substitute decision-maker legally authorised to act on behalf of a client when appropriate. An individual client may also be referred to as a patient.

Competence: The combined knowledge, skills, attitudes, and judgment required to provide dental hygiene services.

Dental hygiene services: any service that falls within the practice of the profession of dental hygienists as outlined in the [Health Professions Act](#). (Schedule 5, section 3)

Female genital mutilation: As defined in the [Health Professions Act](#) means “the excision, infibulation or mutilation, in whole or in part, of the labia majora, labia minora, clitoral hood or clitoris of a person, except where valid consent is given, and

(i) a surgical or other procedure is performed by a regulated member under [the HPA] for the benefit of the physical health of the person or for the purpose of that person having normal reproductive functions or normal sexual appearance or function, or

(ii) the person is at least 18 years of age and there is no resulting bodily harm.”

Legislation: Federal or provincial acts, regulations, or codes