

MANITOBA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Scope of Practise

(Revised November, 2001)

- A. Introduction
- B. Education Programs and Courses
- C. Current Scope of Practise Which May be Delegated

A. INTRODUCTION

This document is to provide the Manitoba dental practitioner with an updated guideline of the Scope of Practise for dental assistants, hygienists and therapists in a private office setting as recognized by the Manitoba Dental Association.

Although the MDA Oral Health Team Committee worked on this document neither the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association or the Manitoba Dental Therapists Association agree with the final draft. However, the MDA Board has approved this Scope of Practise and it represents their official position as it relates to the delegation of duties by dentists to oral health team members.

Having completed a CDA accredited educational program or a program recognized by the Manitoba Dental Association, the individuals identified may perform, under the effective supervision of a dentist licensed by the MDA, those procedures for which a dentist can delegate as outlined in this document. Therefore, a dentist must be physically present in the dental office and available while patient services are being provided by any of these designated oral health team members.

Prior to delegating procedures, it is the responsibility of the employing dentist to ensure that an individual is qualified to perform said procedures and, where applicable, has been registered and/or licensed by the Association.

Individual dentists do not have the authority to delegate intra oral services that are beyond the limits of the scope of practise as outlined in this document. Doing so would constitute a breach of the Bylaws of the Manitoba Dental Association.

B. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COURSES

Education programs available to dental assistants, hygienists, and therapists can be broadly described as:

1. Core programs (ie. full time formal courses),
2. Speciality modules (ie. short upgrading courses), or
3. Upgrading programs

1. CORE PROGRAMS

Institutions presently offering training in Core Programs are listed below, followed by the year in which the program was formally recognized as an accredited course of training by the Manitoba Dental Association.

DENTAL ASSISTING

- Keewatin Community College (1979)
- Red River College (1974)
- Robertson College (1997-2000)

Programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC)

National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) certificates for non-accredited programs (July 2001)

DENTAL HYGIENE

- School of Dental Hygiene, University of Manitoba (1965) (Restorative Dentistry Techniques part of formal 2-year program 1975-1999).

DENTAL THERAPY

- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (1975-1988)

STUDENT PRACTICUMS

Student practicum's as it relates to the Core Programs and Specialty Modules.

In order to perform intra-oral procedures in a private dental practise as part of an educational practicum arranged by the educational institution, a student must;

1. be enrolled in an accredited Dental Hygiene or Level II Dental Assisting program recognized by the Manitoba Dental Association
2. have successfully completed the theoretical and pre-clinical components and demonstrated competency in those specific intra-oral procedures that they will be expected to perform
3. work under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist

2. SPECIALTY MODULES

These Modules are offered to qualified individuals who have received standing in one of the Core Programs. Characteristically, the Modules are of short duration and require self-study in advance of a formal laboratory/clinical session.

Orthodontics for dental assistants, hygienists and dental therapists

Didactic and practical, designed to prepare Level II dental assistants; hygienists; therapists for work in a orthodontic-oriented office. Upon completion, the individual is able to:

- Place and remove orthodontic separators;
- Fit orthodontic bands prior to cementation;
- Cement orthodontic bands;
- Tie in prepared orthodontic archwires;
- Remove orthodontic archwires;
- Remove excess cement following cementation of orthodontic bands;
- Place direct bonded orthodontic attachments;
- Take orthodontic impressions;
- Take panoramic and cephalometric radiographs; and
- Trace cephalometric radiographs.

This module has been fully incorporated into the dental hygiene curriculum since 2000.

3. UPGRADING PROGRAMS

The following procedures were added to the training of a Level II in 1992-93 at Keewatin Community College and 1995-96 at Red River College. Individuals graduating prior to these dates may upgrade through either the Advanced skills at Red River College or the Expanded Intra-oral Competencies Upgrading Level II at Keewatin Community College.

At the completion of either of these courses, the individual is able to:

- Apply topical anaesthetics
- Place treatment liners, bases, and adhesives
- Place and remove matrices and wedges
- Apply topical desensitizing agents
- Remove sutures
- Use an explorer during sealant, coronal polishing procedures and placement of matrices

Independent Study Programs

The following program is designed to provide theoretical knowledge to chairside employees in private offices:

- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology – Edmonton, Alberta

This program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada

Local Anaesthesia for Dental Hygienists

Didactic and clinical instruction in the administration of Block and Infiltration local anaesthesia. (6-week self study and 24 hours at the School of Dental Hygiene, University of Manitoba). Designed for those individuals who graduated from the University of Manitoba prior to 1999 and for those hygienists graduating from other provinces where local anaesthesia was not part of the scope of practise for dental hygienists.

4. RE-ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

Dental Assistants, Hygienists and Therapists who have not been employed in private practice or clinical teaching for a period of 5 years or more cannot re-enter the workforce without prior approval of the MDA Registrar.

C. CURRENT SCOPE OF PRACTISE

All MDA recognized programs currently require students to obtain certificates in CPR and first aid procedures prior to graduation. Upon graduation, it is the individual's responsibility to maintain certificates as outlined by the appropriate authority (ie. Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation, St. John Ambulance, or Red Cross).

A Level II dental assistant, hygienist or therapist who has completed a specialty module recognized by the Manitoba Dental Association is eligible to perform the duties covered in the module, in addition to those listed on the chart.

OFFICE TRAINED AUXILIARIES

Office trained auxiliaries have no formal educational training but are trained in-office by the dentist to perform extra-oral procedures only. **Excluded** from the list of extra-oral procedures are:

1. Counsel, instruct and demonstrate for the maintenance or improvement of oral health
2. Dental hygiene care - Plan in consultation with dentist
3. Diet and nutritional counselling as it relates to oral health
4. Radiographs—identify information significant to dental hygiene care
5. Vital signs - take and record

PUBLIC HEALTH (Educational and Long-term Care)

Dental Assistants, Hygienists and Therapists may work in a public health setting without effective supervision. They are however limited to the following:

1. Develop and deliver community dental health education programs
2. Counsel, instruct and demonstrate for the maintenance or improvement of oral health
3. Screening: use mirror, tongue depressor & light to record and chart observations. The level of screening will be limited to their education qualifications.

PROCEDURE

L-1 L-2 HYG THR

EXTRA-ORAL

Bleaching trays - Fabricate				
Chairside assisting				
Counsel, instruct and demonstrate for the maintenance or improvement of oral health				
Custom trays - Fabricate				
Dental equipment - Maintain and care for				
Dental hygiene care - Plan in consultation with a dentist				
Dental materials - Prepare and manipulate				
Dentures - Minor repairs *				
Diet and nutritional counselling as it relates to oral health				
Health histories -record				
Mouthguards - Fabricate	NEW	NEW		
Occlusal rims - Fabricate *	NEW	NEW		
Office management functions				
Radiographs - Identify information significant to dental hygiene care				
Radiographs - Process and mount				
Recall consultations - with the dentist		NEW		
Study models - Fabricate				
Tray set-ups - Prepare				
Universal precautions - Apply				
Vital signs - take and record				

* Only DA graduands from Keewatin Community College are taught these tasks

SCREENING- PUBLIC SETTING

Identify permanent and deciduous teeth		NEW		
Identify abnormalities in tooth development		NEW		
Identify soft and hard deposits ie. Plaque, stain, calculus etc		NEW		
Identify healthy and unhealthy tissues ie. Gingivitis, recession, various oral lesions etc.		NEW		
Assess areas of plaque (plaque index)		NEW		

INTRA-ORAL

Aiding in assessing a patient's oral health status and report observations to the dentist		NEW		
Anticariogenic agents - Apply				
Bleaching Trays - insert		NEW	NEW	
Chemotherapeutic periodontal agents - Apply			NEW	
Debridement - Supragingival and subgingival (scaling and root planing)				
Debridement of implants			NEW	
Debridement to the level of the CEJ				
Deciduous teeth -Surgically remove				
Dental stain/plaque deposit removal - Selective extrinsic				
Employ diagnostic tests and indices when required				
Finish and polish dental restorations**				
Following cavity preparation by a dentist, place permanent (amalgam and composite) and sedative plastic restorative materials**				
Gingival curettage				
Impressions - Preliminary and process				
Local anaesthetics (block and infiltration anaesthesia)*			NEW	
Orthodontic procedures formally taught in the Orthodontic Module***				
Overhang removals				
Periodontal dressings - Apply and Remove				
Pit and fissure sealants - Apply				
Place and remove wedges and matrices ** ~				
Place cavity liners, bases, and adhesives ** ~				
Place space maintainers to include impression taking, fitting, and cementation after diagnosis and design by a dentist ***				
Prepare for and place permanent plastic restorations or sedative dressings in primary and permanent teeth (ie. Amalgam and composite)****				
Protective Mouthguards - insert and adjust				
Pulp cappings - Direct and Indirect				
Pulpotomies				
Radiographs - Expose				
Rubber dams - Apply and remove ^				
Screenings - Epidemiological purposes in a clinical or public health setting				
Scaling - 2 mm subgingival on healthy gingiva ^^		NEW		
Stainless steel crowns on primary teeth - Prepare and Place				
Sutures -Remove				
Topical anaesthetics - Apply ~				
Topical desensitizing agents - Apply ~				

* Administration of local anesthetic has been incorporated in the curriculum at the School of Dental Hygiene since 1999. Graduates whose dental hygiene curriculum did not incorporate local anesthesia may take a specialty module offered by the University of Manitoba, School of Dental Hygiene

** DH Graduates of the year 2000 and beyond who wish to perform any restorative procedures in private practice must take a clinical restorative module offered by the University of Manitoba, School of Dental Hygiene

*** The Ortho Module has been fully incorporated into the dental hygiene curriculum since 2000 Level II Dental Assistants must have taken an Orthodontic Module in order to be able to perform Orthodontic procedures.

**** Dental Therapists may prepare teeth for restorations on patients up to 14 year of age only

~ These skills have been incorporated in the curriculum of the KCC Dental Assisting program since 1993 and the RRC Dental Assisting program since 1996. Graduates whose Dental Assisting curriculum did not incorporate these skills can take a module offered by KCC and RRC Continuing Education Departments.

^^ Dental Assistants must take a scaling module approved by the Manitoba Dental Association. Registration of successful completion of module required.

^ Prior to 1973, rubber dam and the placing and exposing of dental radiographs were not included in the training. The individual would have to upgrade to perform these or have completed the RRC Completer Course. This Completer Course is no longer available.