

The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba's Position Statement for the Removal of Implant Supported Crowns and/or Fixed Prostheses

Purpose

The purpose of this position statement is to inform registrants of The College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) on the College's position on the removal of implant supported crowns and fixed prostheses.

Background

Implant-supported crowns and fixed prostheses are more prevalent today due to the advancements in dentistry. These treatment options can enhance aesthetics and phonetics, in addition to nutritional uptake by way of improving mastication and functional abilities.¹ As implants and fixed prostheses are increasingly utilized to address oral health needs, dental hygienists will encounter these rehabilitative treatments more often in their provision of care.

Position

The CDHM **does not** permit the removal of an implant supported crown or the removal of an implant supported fixed prosthesis by registered dental hygienists.

This decision is based on current legislation and on the lack of comprehensive educational instruction. There are a wide range of implant assisted therapies which require specialized instruments to remove and re-attach. Improper manipulation can adversely affect the future function and stability of the underlying implant. Therefore, the removal of a crown or fixed prosthetic supported by an implant must be completed by a dentist or prosthodontist. To date, there is insufficient didactic and clinical training for dental hygienists on the removal of implant supported crowns or fixed dentures. Accordingly, their removal is currently not in the scope of practice for registered dental hygienists in Manitoba.

Practising dental hygienists **are** permitted to remove the button type over-dentures after assessing the overall integrity of the implants and surrounding tissue.

Legislative Reference

According to the CDHM Practice Standards, dental hygienists:²

- 1.1. Adhere to current jurisdictional legislation, regulations, codes of ethics, practice standards, guidelines, and policies relevant to the profession and practice setting;
- 1.11 Consult and collaborate with other colleagues, health professionals, and experts as necessary



According to the CDHM Competencies, a registered dental hygienist:³

- Assesses the health status of dental implants (Assessment #29)
- Assesses the effect of fixed and removable prosthodontics on oral health (e.g. implants, partial denture, complete denture, crown, bridge, etc.) (Assessment #40)
- Applies appropriate debridement techniques for dental implants and related oral structures (Implementation #38)
- Removes deposits from fixed and removable prostheses and appliances (Implementation #39)
- Evaluates the need for further consultation and referrals within the health care delivery system (Evaluation #11)

None of these competencies permit removal of implant supported crowns and/or fixed dentures.

*This position statement reflects current knowledge and is subject to periodic review and revisions with on-going research.

References

1. Ülkü SZ, Kaya FA, Uysal E, Gulsun B. Clinical Evaluation of Complications in Implant-Supported Dentures: A 4-Year Retrospective Study. Med Sci Monit [Internet]. 2017. 12;23. Retrieved from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12659/MSM.907840>
2. CDHM Practice Standards. College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba. 2007.
3. CDHM Competencies. College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba. 2007.