

The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba's Practice Guideline for the Removal of Implant Supported Crowns and/or Fixed Dentures

Practice Guideline

The College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) does not permit the removal of an implant supported crown or the removal of an implant supported fixed denture.

This decision is based on legislation and the lack of comprehensive educational instruction.

There are a wide range of implant assisted therapies which require a series of instruments to remove and re-attach. Improper manipulation could affect the future function and stability of the underlying implant. Therefore, the removal of a crown or fixed denture supported by an implant must be removed solely by a dentist or prosthodontist.

Practising dental hygienists are permitted to remove the button type over-dentures.

To date, there is insufficient didactic and clinical training for the removal of implant supported crowns or fixed dentures for dental hygienists. Accordingly, their removal is currently not in the scope of practice for registered dental hygienists in Manitoba.

Legislative Reference

According to the Dental Hygienists Regulation Standards of Practice 30(1), "The standards of practice for a dental hygienist are the practice standards and practice competencies set out in the latest editions of the following documents, published by the college:

- (a) College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba Practice Standards;
- (b) College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba Practice Competencies."

As stated on page 11 of the College of Dental Hygienist of Manitoba Competencies 2007:

"The dental hygienist:

#38: applies appropriate debridement techniques for dental implants and related oral structures.

#39: removes deposits from fixed and removable prostheses and appliances.

#72: places, condenses and carves direct restorative materials (e.g. amalgams, composites, etc.) (in collaboration with a dentist)."

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

This practice guideline reflects current knowledge and is subject to periodic review and revisions with on-going research

