



COLLEGE OF  
DENTAL HYGIENISTS  
OF MANITOBA

# POSITION STATEMENT: Use of Lasers

September 2024

The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba is responsible for developing professional resource documents for dental hygienists. Council approves these documents, of which, the purpose is to explain, enhance, add, or guide dental hygiene practice in accordance with The Dental Hygienists Act and Regulations. It is the responsibility of the dental hygienist to understand and comply with these documents.

## The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba's Position Statement for the Use of Lasers

### Purpose

This document has been developed to inform registrants of the College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) about the current position on the use of lasers by dental hygienists.

### Background

Laser is an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. In some jurisdictions, where legislation permits, dental hygienists are using lasers in non-surgical periodontal treatment, including the removal of diseased epithelial lining of the periodontal pocket (gingival curettage) and pocket disinfection as it ablates the tissues to destroy pathogenic bacteria. Other uses of lasers in oral healthcare include for the removal of calculus from diseased root surface, for the treatment of oral conditions (e.g., aphthous ulcers, geographic tongue), and for teeth whitening. Laser technology is not taught as a part of the curriculum of dental hygiene, and there continues to be a lack of high-quality scientific evidence, or conflicting evidence, regarding the efficacy of lasers in the treatment of periodontal disease. The Manitoba Dental Hygienists Act<sup>1</sup> does not allow the use of lasers by dental hygienists in Manitoba.

### Position

The CDHM **does not allow** the use of lasers by dental hygienists for, but not limited to, the treatment of periodontal disease, oral conditions, or teeth whitening. This position is in accordance with the Manitoba Dental Hygienists Act<sup>1</sup> and Regulation<sup>2</sup>.

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

## References

1. Dental Hygienists Act. (2005). Available from: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/38-4/b005e.php>
2. Dental Hygienists' Regulation. (2008). The Dental Hygienists Act C.C.S.M. c. D34. 80/2008 9(1)(g). Available from: [https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/\\_pdf-regs.php?reg=80/2008](https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=80/2008)