



COLLEGE OF
DENTAL HYGIENISTS
OF MANITOBA

INTERPRETATION GUIDELINE: Injectable and Non-injectable Oral Anesthetic

September 2021

The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba, Professional Practice Committee 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.

College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba's Interpretation Guideline for Injectable and Non-injectable Oral Anaesthetic

Purpose

This interpretation guideline is to inform registrants of the College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) about the current regulation requirements for Injectable and Non-injectable Oral Anaesthetic.

Background

- Oral anaesthetics are considered for use by Registered Dental Hygienists in Manitoba¹ who are approved on the CDHM Oral Anaesthetic Roster², to manage client dental anxiety, tooth sensitivity or pain sensitivity during therapy, or to control bleeding.
- Oral anaesthetics are available as:
 - Injectable anaesthetics, which are injected into oral soft tissues using a syringe (local anaesthetic).³
 - Non-injectable anaesthetics, including topical agents such as gels, liquids, sprays, ointments, and patches applied topically to intraoral mucous membranes (above the gumline).⁴
 - Non-injectable anaesthetics, such as Oraqix or Cetacaine, which are administered needle-free, sub-gingivally (below the gumline).⁵
- Oral anaesthetics contain drugs that increase the risk of patient adverse events.^{6,7,8,9}
- Educational institutions may or may not include oral anaesthetic and pain management coursework in initial dental hygiene education; additional education may be required to be considered for approval on the CDHM Oral Anaesthetic Roster.
- A member of the public may search the [Public Register](#) or contact the CDHM office to confirm a RDH is approved on the Oral Anaesthetic Roster.

Requirements

- A Registered Dental Hygienist applying to be on the Oral Anaesthetic Roster must have completed a CDHM approved educational program for oral anaesthetic and pain management.
- A Registered Dental Hygienist with oral anaesthetic education must receive confirmation of approval on the CDHM Oral Anaesthetic Roster, prior to administering any oral anaesthetic.^{1,2}
- It is the professional responsibility of a Registered Dental Hygienist on the Oral Anaesthetic Roster to remain current in the concepts and practice of injectable and non-injectable oral anaesthetic to continue to provide safe care.^{6,8,9}
- Registered dental hygienists on the Oral Anaesthetic Roster must also be on the CDHM Extended Practice Roster to administer oral anaesthetic without [supervision](#).
- In accordance with the Dental Hygienists Act¹ and Regulations² administering oral anaesthetic is an “*included practice*” subject to the “*setting restrictions*”, and may only be administered in the following [settings](#):
 - In a dentist's office

- In a facility
- As a part of an oral health program
- A setting approved by the patient's dentist

Applicable Legislation

According to the CDHM Practice Standards¹⁰, dental hygienists:

- 1.1. Adhere to current jurisdictional legislation, regulations, codes of ethics, practice standards, guidelines, and policies relevant to the profession and practice setting;
- 1.6. Follow dental hygiene process, demonstrating sound professional judgment and integrity;
- 1.13. Know the technological and product options; select the best option for the situation, depending on client need;

According to the CDHM Competencies¹¹, a registered dental hygienist:

- assesses the need for management of client pain, anxiety and discomfort (e.g. local anaesthetic, anti-anxiety medication, nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation, support, etc.) (Assessment #49)
- selects appropriate pain management strategies (e.g. local anaesthesia, support, etc.) (Planning #12)
- selects appropriate local anaesthetic agents (Planning #13)
- selects injection techniques to provide appropriate and adequate local anaesthesia (Planning #14)
- obtains informed consent for the dental hygiene care plan from the client and/or agent (e.g. therapy, pharmacotherapeutic agents, anaesthetics, etc.) (Planning #16)
- provides instructions and/or teaches post-operative oral self-care (e.g. implant care, surgery, periodontal debridement, effects of anaesthesia, etc.) (Implementation #11)
- manages client pain, anxiety and discomfort using supportive measures and/or administering local anaesthetic (Implementation #24)
- monitors the client for adverse reactions to interventions (Implementation #44)
- evaluates the progress of interventions throughout the dental hygiene process of care (e.g. effectiveness of strategies to manage pain, anxiety and discomfort, etc.) (Evaluation #3)

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

References

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