



COLLEGE OF  
DENTAL HYGIENISTS  
OF MANITOBA

# PRACTICE DIRECTION: Settings Requirements

May 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 Practice Direction for Practice Settings Requirements

### Purpose

This practice direction is to provide clarity for registrants of the College of Dental Hygienists' of Manitoba (CDHM) regarding practice setting requirements for Registered Dental Hygienists.

### Background

The Dental Hygienists Act<sup>1</sup>, section 2(2), describes the “included practices” as including but not limited to:

1. scaling and root planning above and below the gumline;
2. performing debridement and curettage below the gumline;
3. administering oral anesthetic;
4. using oral therapeutic agents;
5. applying dental sealants; and
6. performing orthodontic and restorative procedures (in collaboration with a dentist)

According to the Dental Hygienists Regulation<sup>2</sup>, section 2(1) “Settings in which included practices may be performed” include:

1. in a dentist's office;
2. \*in a facility;
  - A hospital as designated by the Hospitals Designation Regulation
  - A personal care home as designated by the Personal Care Homes Designation Regulation
  - A psychiatric facility as designated by the Facilities Designation Regulation
  - Another facility as approved by the Minister of Health as a result of a special request.
3. \*as part of an oral health program;
  - A program for the promotion or advancement of oral health established or operated by the government, the Government of Canada, a municipality, a regional health authority, the University of Manitoba;
  - Another program approved by the Minister of Health as a result of a special request.
4. a setting approved by the patient's dentist.

\*‘Facilities’ and ‘oral health programs’ may or may not have an affiliated dentist.

Despite the settings restrictions, a dental hygienist may use an oral therapeutic in any setting, but is restricted to the following oral therapeutic agents:

1. anticariogenic agents;
2. desensitizing agents;
3. periodontal chemotherapeutic agents;
4. or any other category of oral therapeutic agents approved by the council.

Despite the settings restrictions, the application of dental sealants may be performed in any setting, but only if after assessing the tooth, the dental hygienist determines that there is no obvious sign of decay.

### **Requirements**

The included practices of scaling and root planning, debridement and curettage, administering oral anesthetic, orthodontic and restorative procedures are subject to the described practice settings.

The included practices of using of oral therapeutic agents and applying dental sealants may be performed in any setting, providing the described provisions have been met.

All registered dental hygienists, regardless of practice hours, may perform these professional activities without supervision or setting restrictions. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Use of chemotherapeutic agents
- Applying dental sealants
- Assessment and evaluation procedures
- Oral health education and promotion

These services may be provided in any setting, including but not limited to:

- Educational facilities, daycare, or community group programs.
- A community health clinic or resource center.
- Care homes, group homes, and/or hospital settings.

Any dental hygiene practice not listed here may be subject to the settings restrictions. If you are unsure, contact the college to confirm the applicable setting for dental hygiene practices not described here.

Any dental hygiene service provided is subject to the Dental Hygiene Practice Standards<sup>3</sup> and Competencies<sup>4</sup> and to the Dental Hygienists Code of Ethics<sup>5</sup>.

Infection prevention and control (IPAC) standards must be adhered to for the delivery of all dental hygiene services, in all settings.<sup>6</sup>

\*This practice direction reflects current legislation and is subject to periodic review and revisions.

## References

1. The Dental Hygienists Act C.C.S.M. c. D34. 80/2009. 2008. Retrieved from: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/38-4/b005e.php>
2. Dental Hygienists Regulation, Man Reg 80/2008. Retrieved from: [http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/\\_pdf-regs.php?reg=80/2008](http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=80/2008)
3. CDHM Practice Standards. College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba. 2007. Retrieved from: <https://cdhm.info/?ddownload=959>
4. CDHM Competencies. College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba. 2007. Retrieved from: <https://cdhm.info/?ddownload=822>
5. Dental Hygienists' Code of Ethics. The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association. 2012. Retrieved from: [https://www.cdha.ca/pdfs/Profession/Resources/Code\\_of\\_Ethics\\_EN\\_web.pdf](https://www.cdha.ca/pdfs/Profession/Resources/Code_of_Ethics_EN_web.pdf)
6. Infection Prevention and Control Canada <https://ipac-canada.org/position-statements-practice-recommendations.php>