



COLLEGE OF
DENTAL HYGIENISTS
OF MANITOBA

PRACTICE DIRECTION: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

September 2023

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 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Purpose

This practice direction is to inform registrants of the College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) about the current requirements for annual cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification. It is the responsibility of the registered dental hygienist to maintain current CPR certification as outlined in this document.

Background

Registered dental hygienists in Manitoba are required to maintain appropriate CPR knowledge and skills to respond to a client safely and effectively in the event of an emergency.^{1,2}

CPR knowledge and skills deteriorate with non-use or non-practice, and poor-quality resuscitation by rescuers is commonly observed in actual cardiac arrests.^{3,4,5}

Frequent retraining enhances retention; an annual renewal of CPR knowledge and skills allows the dental hygienist to reinforce current concepts and practice of CPR to increase the probability of an effective intervention during a medical emergency in a dental setting.^{3,4,5}

Requirements

- The required level of CPR certification is Basic Life Support (BLS).
- CPR-BLS certification must include theory, hands-on practice, and evaluation.
- Online-only programs are not accepted.^{3,6,7}
- CPR-BLS certification must include training in all the following^{7,8,9}:
 - foreign body airway obstruction (choking) relief in adults, children, and infants;
 - one- and two-person rescuer chest compressions for adults, children, and infants;
 - rescue breathing for adults, children, and infants;
 - one- and two-person rescuer bag-valve mask ventilation techniques for adults, children, and infants; and
 - use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Dental hygienists applying to or transferring to the Practicing Register must provide evidence of a valid CPR-BLS certificate within 12 months prior to the application or transfer date.
- Practicing dental hygienists are required to be CPR-BLS certified at all times. CPR-BLS must be taken annually; there should be no lapse in certification, however CDHM honours a 30-day grace period, beginning 12 months after certificate issuance.
- At all times, a valid CPR-BLS certificate must be displayed on the registrant's profile page.

- All CPR-BLS certification is subject to approval by the Board of Assessors (BOA).¹ The BOA may seek verification that the CPR-BLS certification has met the requirements listed above.

Applicable Legislation

According to the Dental Hygienists Regulation section 9(1)(g)¹:

An applicant for registration on the register of dental hygienists must submit the following to the Board of Assessors: evidence that the dental hygienist holds current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification at a level required by Council.

According to the CDHM Competencies², registrants of the CDHM have the ability to:

- assess vital signs (Assessment #5)
- identify clients at risk for medical emergency (Assessment #8)
- assess the practice environment for emergency measures (i.e., for clients, the dental hygienist and others) (Assessment #60)
- demonstrate awareness of and compliance with the policies of the practice environment (e.g., infection control procedures, safety guidelines, emergency preparedness, etc.) (Assessment #67)
- ensure the provision of care in emergency situations (Implementation #58)
- document health and safety incidents (Implementation #59)

*This practice direction reflects current knowledge and is subject to periodic review and revisions according to on-going research.

References

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