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Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario is to regulate the practice of dental hygiene in the interest of the overall health and safety of the public of Ontario.

Énoncé de mission

La mission de l'Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires de l'Ontario consiste à réglementer l'exercice de la profession d'hygiène dentaire de sorte à favoriser l'état de santé global et la sécurité du public ontarien.

The College of Dental Hygienists is the regulatory body for the practice of dental hygiene in Ontario.

What to expect from dental hygiene care:

You can expect to receive quality preventive oral hygiene care* from a health professional who is registered with the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO).

***The dental hygienist should:**

- Update your medical and dental history
- Assess the condition of your teeth and gums and discuss your oral health concerns
- Provide a dental hygiene treatment plan that considers disease prevention a priority in achieving optimal health
- Assist you or your care giver in ways to maintain your oral health
- Explain how dental hygiene care can help maintain a healthy mouth and body
- Obtain your permission to provide treatment
- Provide dental hygiene therapies that are safe and effective and have current evidenced based research to support their use. This may include the scaling of teeth and the removal of stains.
- Respect client confidentiality and privacy

- Practice standard infection control including the wearing of gloves, mask and eye protection, and use of sterile instruments.
- Refer you to another health care practitioner if s/he observes a condition s/he can not treat

All registrants must have taken a dental hygiene program of at least two academic years in duration. An entry-to-practice requirement is that an applicant must show proof of having successfully completed the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board Examination.

Dental hygienists practice according to the regulations, standards and code of ethics set by the CDHO. Every dental hygienist in the province must meet the CDHO's entry-to-practice requirements and must participate in the CDHO's Quality Assurance Program on an on-going basis.

You may choose to receive dental hygiene care in a variety of settings, including your residence, if it is physically difficult for you to attend a traditional practice setting. There are dental hygienists who make "house calls."

Only persons currently registered with the CDHO may use the title "dental hygienist" or any variety or translation of "dental hygienist" including the initials RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist). You have the right to ask to see the dental hygienist's certificate of registration wallet card and to verify with the College that the person is registered. This may be done on the internet at this site under "Find a Dental Hygienist".

Depending on the setting in which you receive dental hygiene treatment, the fees and method of payment will vary and you may wish to clarify the process prior to the appointment.

- If the dental hygienist works on his or her own, the discussion should occur with the dental hygienist at the time the appointment is made. Clients should be aware that fees may be dependant on several factors including time and travel if the treatment is to occur in the client's residence.
- If the dental hygienist practices in a dental office, the dentist traditionally sets the fees and the client should address the fee structure with the dentist or office manager.
- If the client has a dental insurance policy, the client should contact the insurance carrier to determine if the carrier will pay for direct dental hygiene care.

The College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario does not set fees; this is between you and your dental hygienist.

If you have any concerns regarding your dental hygiene treatment, please contact the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario at 1-800-268-2346 or 416-961-6234 in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).