

## ETHICAL DECISION MAKING MODEL

<b>STEP 1</b>	<b>IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM</b>	Identify, in a preliminary way, the nature of the challenge or problem.
<b>STEP 2</b>	<b>GATHER INFORMATION</b>	Become suitably informed and gather relevant information including factual information, sequence of events; applicable policies, laws, and regulations and the views of stakeholders.
<b>STEP 3</b>	<b>CLARIFY THE PROBLEM</b>	Clarify and elaborate the problem based on the additional information obtained. Identify the ethical principles at stake.
<b>STEP 4</b>	<b>IDENTIFY OPTIONS</b>	Identify the various options for action.
<b>STEP 5</b>	<b>ASSESS OPTIONS</b>	Assess the various options.
<b>STEP 6</b>	<b>CHOOSE A COURSE OF ACTION</b>	Decide on and justify/defend a course of action.
<b>STEP 7</b>	<b>IMPLEMENT THE ACTION</b>	Implement one's decision as thoughtfully and sensitively as possible.
<b>STEP 8</b>	<b>EVALUATE OUTCOMES</b>	Assess the consequence of your decision and evaluate the outcomes.



College of  
**Dental Hygienists**  
of Ontario

## Code of Ethics

69 Bloor Street East, Suite 300  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 1A9  
Tel: 416-961-6234  
Fax: 416-961-6028  
Toll free: 1-800-268-2346  
[www.cdho.org](http://www.cdho.org)

# COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF ONTARIO CODE OF ETHICS

(Adapted from the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association Code of Ethics, 2001)

*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.*

## **PRINCIPLE I: BENEFICENCE**

- *Involves caring about and promoting the good of another.*

Dental hygienists use their knowledge and skills to assist clients to achieve and maintain optimal oral health and to promote fair and reasonable access to quality care.

---

## **PRINCIPLE II: AUTONOMY**

- *Pertains to the right to make one's own choices.*

By communicating relevant information openly and truthfully, dental hygienists assist clients to make informed choices and to participate actively in achieving and maintaining optimal oral health.

---

## **PRINCIPLE III: PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

- *Privacy pertains to a person's right to control the collection, use and disclosure of personal information; the right to access and correct inaccurate information; and the right to expect that the information is kept secure.*
- *Confidentiality is the duty to hold secret any information acquired in the professional relationship.*

Dental hygienists respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence the information disclosed to them, subject to certain narrowly defined exceptions.

---

## **PRINCIPLE IV: ACCOUNTABILITY**

- *Pertains to the acceptance of responsibility for one's actions and omissions in light of relevant principles, standards, laws, regulations and the potential to self-evaluate and to be evaluated accordingly.*

Dental hygienists practise competently in conformity with relevant principles, standards, laws, and the regulations under the *RHPA, 1991 and DHA, 1991* and accept responsibility for their behaviour and decisions in the professional context.

---

## **PRINCIPLE V: PROFESSIONALISM**

- *Is the commitment to use and advance professional knowledge and skills to serve the client and the public good.*

Dental hygienists express their professional commitment individually in their practice and communally through the CDHO and their participation in the CDHO Quality Assurance Program.