



College of **Dental Hygienists** of Ontario
STANDARD OF PRACTICE

Standard of Practice for Self-Initiation

This Standard of Practice will apply to CDHO registrants who plan to self-initiate the controlled act of “*scaling teeth and root planing, including curetting surrounding tissue*” under the *Dental Hygiene Act, 1991* as amended by the *Health System Improvements Act, 2007*. This standard applies regardless of the health care setting in which self-initiation occurs.

This Standard of Practice must be applied in the context of the *Dental Hygiene Act* as amended and the CDHO’s “Contraindications Regulation” (Ontario Regulation 501/07).

The objective of the Standard of Practice for Self-initiation is to provide assurance to Ontarians, who choose to have a dental hygienist clean their teeth without an ‘order’ from a dentist, that the dental hygienist is fully competent to do so as safely and effectively as if the procedure were performed under an ‘order’.

This Standard of Practice for Self-initiation describes three streams or scenarios designed to provide this assurance. **This Standard of Practice also articulates the professional expectation that dental hygienists will not self-initiate the controlled act of “*scaling teeth and root planing, including curetting surrounding tissue*” unless they have been authorized to do so by the CDHO through one of the three streams as explained herein.**

CDHO registrants who plan to self-initiate are expected to apply, and pay the required application fee (\$75), to the College for a “seal” which is to be affixed to their CDHO wall certificates to signify that they have been authorized to self-initiate. A notation will also be placed beside the approved registrant’s name on the public register.

Stream One	Explanation/Commentary
Type of Registrant: Applies to registrants with the CDHO, who hold a general/specialty certificate of registration who:	The registrant provides evidence of dental hygiene practice.
A) provide evidence of self-initiating the controlled act under a 'standing order' or 'protocol' over at least the previous two (2) years ¹ in one or more long-term care homes, hospitals, residential facilities or public health; OR	The registrant has provided dental hygiene care to both healthy and medically compromised clients on-site, external to a dental office and provides the requisite evidence to the College, to the College's satisfaction.
B) provide evidence of self-initiating the controlled act under a 'standing order' or 'protocol' over at least the previous two (2) years in an independent or multidisciplinary practice (i.e., a practice with no dentist involvement, except on or by referral); OR	There are currently dental hygienists who work in multidisciplinary or stand-alone dental hygiene clinics who have been treating clients with no dentist involvement other than receipt of a 'standing order' or 'protocol.'
C) provide evidence of self-initiating the controlled act in Alberta and/or British Columbia over at least the previous two (2) years; OR	Dental hygienists in British Columbia and Alberta are authorized to self-initiate at the entry-to-practice level.
D) provide evidence of teaching within an accredited dental hygiene education program in which self-initiation has been taught and in which the registrant has been actively engaged in teaching self-initiation for the previous two (2) years; OR	Educators who are currently teaching in CDAC accredited dental hygiene programs are involved in education regarding self-initiation as that is implicit within the accreditation process. Dental hygienists, who are educators, make the decision to allow dental hygiene students to proceed with the controlled act.
E) have a baccalaureate-level degree in dental hygiene or the equivalent; OR	Registrants who have obtained a degree in dental hygiene or equivalent will have completed additional study components in the sciences, including oral sciences.
F) provide evidence of clinical practice under a 'standing order' or 'protocol' for at least two (2) years.	Registrants who have practised under a 'protocol' or 'standing order' for at least two (2) years have demonstrated the knowledge, skill and judgment required for self-initiation of the controlled act of <i>"scaling teeth, root planing including curetting surrounding tissue"</i> .

¹ Reference to a time period of experience in this document refers to either full-time experience (generally about 32 hours per week) or the equivalent experience obtained over a longer period on a part-time basis. Reference to a component of experience (e.g., self-initiation under a 'standing order' or 'protocol') refers to the regular and routine exposure to that component.

Note: All evidence and other documentation required will be submitted with the registrant's application, be subject to verification and be acceptable to the CDHO.

Outcome

Registrants who satisfy any of the foregoing criteria may continue to self-initiate the authorized act under the amended legislation after they have received authorization from the CDHO. The CDHO will issue a seal that is to be applied to the registrant's wall certificate and displayed in the registrant's practice setting. [Duplicate wall certificates are available from the College for a nominal fee.]

Stream Two	Explanation/Commentary
<p>Type of Registrant: Applies to registrants with the CDHO who hold a general or specialty certificate of registration who have been in practice for two (2) years but who do not satisfy one or more of the criteria in Stream One.</p> <p>Requirements: Successful completion of the CDHO-sponsored/approved course that focuses on the ability to incorporate critical thinking, knowledge of pathophysiology, special-needs clients and interventions relating to medical emergencies.</p> <p>The course design is structured to build on each registrant's current knowledge and includes:</p>	<p>This would apply to registrants who have practised exclusively in the area of orthodontics or restorative dental hygiene who now wish to practise self-initiation of “<i>scaling teeth, root planing including curetting surrounding tissue.</i>” This would also apply to registrants who have been practising only with “client specific orders” for the past two years. These registrants will not have been self-initiating under a ‘standing order’ or ‘protocol’ and will require a refresher program in self-initiation concepts prior to entering general or periodontal practice. This also applies to educators in non-accredited dental hygiene schools who do not satisfy the requirements of Stream One and registrants returning to practice after a prolonged absence as per the CDHO registration regulation.</p> <p>This course will be on-line, available on a national basis and will include a pre-test and post-test evaluation plus a comprehensive final evaluation. A certificate will be awarded upon successful completion.</p> <p>The College recognizes that registrants have graduated at different times, from a variety of institutions and have practised in different settings. Consequently, the modules will be geared to the registrant's needs as determined in the pre-test.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> systematic inquiry relating to the taking and interpretation of medical histories; 	<p>Critical thinking is paramount to understanding the information provided by the client. This also ties in with the contraindications regulation and accompanying guideline.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> study of current concepts relating to pathophysiology; 	<p>Provides an understanding of the processes within the body that result in the signs and symptoms of disease.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> study of the contraindications regulation and recognition of the contraindications listed therein and the reasons for their inclusion in the regulation; 	<p>Clause-by-clause understanding of the regulation and its implications for treatment and/or referral.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> detailed examination of the Dental Hygiene Process of Care; 	<p>The Dental Hygiene Process of Care is the foundation of all dental hygiene education in Canada and the USA and must be thoroughly understood for clinical decision-making and delivery.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identification of circumstances under which an ‘order’ is required; 	<p>Legislatively and practically, the registrant must understand when an ‘order’ from a member of the RCDSO is required. This will include case-based scenarios.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> study of specific indications for special-needs clients (e.g., seniors); 	<p>This module will include gerontological considerations, dealing with clients with sensory deprivation, senility and other special needs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> workplace health and safety requirements, including response to emergencies; and 	<p>Registrants will study alternate emergency response scenarios and receive a review of WHMIS, general first aid concepts, how to develop and use an emergency kit, etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> documentation 	<p>Documentation and recordkeeping are essential to good practice.</p>

Note: All evidence and other documentation required will be submitted with the registrant's application, be subject to verification and be acceptable to the CDHO.

Outcome

Registrants who satisfy the foregoing criteria self-initiate the authorized act under the amended legislation after they have received authorization from the CDHO. The CDHO will issue a seal that is to be applied to the registrant's wall certificate which is to be displayed in the registrant's practice setting. [Duplicate wall certificates are available from the College for a nominal fee.]

Stream Three	Explanation/Commentary
<p>Type of Registrant: Applies to registrants with the CDHO who hold a general or specialty certificate of registration but who have not been in dental hygiene practice in Ontario for two (2) years.</p> <p>Requirements: Must successfully complete the CDHO-sponsored/approved course described in Stream Two. In addition, the registrant must be mentored, by a dental hygienist who has been authorized to self-initiate in Ontario. The registrant must be mentored for a minimum period of six (6) months and/or until the mentoring dental hygienist indicates to the CDHO that the dental hygienist is fully capable of self-initiating under the new legislation².</p>	<p>Mentoring has long been used successfully with the nursing profession where a senior, more experienced practitioner guides the progress of his/her less experienced colleague. Mentoring can also be used to assist registrants from non-self-initiating jurisdictions to enter the practice of dental hygiene within Ontario. CDHO's mentoring program will be based on a formal structured process which includes a contractual agreement between the two parties.</p>

² See separate CDHO document "CDHO Requirements for Dental Hygiene Mentors and Outcomes of Mentoring Process" [currently in the drafting process]

Note: All evidence and other documentation required will be submitted with the registrant's application, be subject to verification and be acceptable to the CDHO.

Outcome

Registrants who satisfy the foregoing criteria may self-initiate the authorized act under the amended legislation after they have received authorization from the CDHO. The CDHO will issue a seal that is to be applied to the registrant's wall certificate which is to be displayed in the registrant's practice setting. [Duplicate wall certificates are available from the College for a nominal fee.]

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College of **Dental Hygienists** of Ontario
L'Ordre des **hygiénistes dentaires** de l'Ontario