CDHO
COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF ONTARIO

Standards of Practice for Dental Hygiene Educators

The *Standards of Practice for Dental Hygiene Educators* acknowledge that dental hygienists are competent professionals whose goals include maintaining and improving their level of competence based on accepted standards of practice. Dental hygienists who are educators are role models for their students. It is a dental hygiene educator's obligation to provide an environment conducive to learning, utilize effective teaching strategies and reflect the principles of the standards.

The *Standards of Practice for Dental Hygiene Educators* articulate a shared vision for dental hygiene educators and identify values, knowledge and skills that dental hygiene students in Ontario can confidently expect from their teachers. These standards are intended to guide the professional judgment and actions of dental hygiene educators and inspire self-reflection and continuous professional development. The *Standards of Practice for Dental Hygiene Educators* reflect the CDHO mission to regulate the practice of dental hygiene in the interest of the overall health and safety of the public of Ontario.

College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all registrants in the care of their clients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with professional practice leaders and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained.

AS EDUCATORS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS…

1. **Are responsible and committed to students and student learning**
   A dental hygienist as an educator reflects this standard when they:
   a) Demonstrate care and commitment to students by recognizing their shared responsibility and leadership role in facilitating student success;
   b) Participate in respectful practice and are sensitive to factors that influence individual student learning;
   c) Protect the privacy and dignity of the learner;
   d) Work collaboratively with other educators and faculty;
   e) Promote intra-professional collaboration;
   f) Model a positive influence that reflects a dental hygienist as a primary oral health care professional;
   g) Provide adequate supervision, direction, and feedback to students.

2. Provide a safe learning environment

A dental hygienist as an educator demonstrates this standard when they:

a) Promote an educational environment that is free from sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination;

b) Promote a collaborative, safe and supportive learning environment by working within the adult learning model;

c) Model and encourage inclusive practices;

d) Ensure the health and safety of the students and the clients in their shared care;

e) Act on issues that can adversely affect the health of students, dental hygiene clients, co-workers, family, and communities.

3. Demonstrate Pedagogical Competence

A dental hygienist as an educator complies with this standard when they:

a) Have knowledge of diverse instructional methods or strategies and utilize methods of instruction that according to research evidence are effective for student learning;

b) Ensure that course content is current, accurate, representative and appropriate;

c) Use reflection on student development, learning theory, pedagogy, curriculum, the CDHO *Code of Ethics* and *Standards of Practice*, and relevant legislation to make professional judgments;

d) Use appropriate pedagogy, assessment and evaluation, resources and technology to promote individual student learning;

e) Participate in ongoing professional learning aimed at expanding competence in their area of teaching;

f) Use ongoing inquiry, dialogue and reflection to refine teaching practices to promote student learning;

g) Ensure that their educational preparation and/or professional development has adequately prepared them to teach the curriculum and assume specific teaching responsibilities;

h) Possess additional education and/or experience in the area in which they are teaching beyond their original dental hygiene training;

i) Possess significant teaching experience before assuming a management or program oversight role.

4. Strive to be current in professional knowledge and maintain competence

A dental hygienist as an educator reflects this when they:

a) Hold a general or specialty certificate of registration with the CDHO and participate in the Quality Assurance Program as required by legislation;

b) Promote ethical conduct among colleagues and students;

c) Have a working knowledge of the *Regulated Health Professions Act 1991*, the *Dental Hygiene Act 199*1 and Regulations, the CDHO Quality Assurance Program, the CDHO Guidelines, *Dental Hygiene Standards of Practice* and *Code of Ethics*;

d) Maintain memberships in relevant professional associations and educational organizations;

e) Comply with recommendations from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC), and requirements made by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) or other relevant government agencies.

5. Ensure public safety in clinical education

A dental hygienist as an educator demonstrates this standard when they:

a) Evaluate the knowledge, skills and clinical reasoning of students prior to their providing client care;

b) Ensure the tasks assigned to the students are appropriate to their education, experience, skills and confidence and that the student is competent to perform the clinical intervention;

c) Verify that informed consent and all appropriate documentation from the clients has been obtained prior to involving students in their care;

d) Supervise students at an appropriate level based on consideration of the activities that the students will perform and their individual skill level, and provide safe client care by ensuring effective risk management;

e) Immediately discontinue student involvement in client care in circumstances where the student's actions or deficient knowledge, skills or clinical reasoning places the client at risk or where the client withdraws consent;

f) Maintain professional accountability for all aspects of dental hygiene care assigned to the dental hygiene student.

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