

In February, the Board adopted the following policy regarding dental hygienists and perio-maintenance:

POLICY REGARDING DENTAL HYGIENISTS PERFORMING PERIODONTAL MAINTENANCE WHEN THE SUPERVISING DENTIST IS NOT PRESENT.

Preamble: The purpose of this policy is to address inquiries regarding whether a dental hygienist can perform periodontal maintenance on a patient when the supervising dentist is not present in the office.

Periodontal maintenance for the purposes of this policy is defined as: procedures performed at regularly scheduled intervals to assist the periodontal patient in maintaining oral health. As part of periodontal therapy, an interval is established for periodic, ongoing care. Maintenance procedures are under the supervision of the dentist and typically include: an update of the medical and dental histories; radiographic review; periodontal evaluation; removal of the bacterial flora from crevicular and pocket areas; limited scaling and root planing where indicated; polishing of the teeth; and a review of the patient's plaque control efficiency. Periodontal maintenance procedures following active therapy is not synonymous with a prophylaxis.

The performance of periodontal maintenance as described above is permissible on a patient when the supervising dentist is not present, as long as there is compliance with Ohio Administrative Code 4715-9-05. The supervising dentist must have evaluated the patient within the past seven (7) months, and prescribed the periodontal maintenance as part of ongoing care for the patient.

Periodontal maintenance is NOT a permissible duty in the care provided in the Oral Health Access Supervision Program.

(Approved February 9, 2011)

***For additional policies adopted by the Board, please see our website and select from the left menu options "Laws, Rules and Policies" and select Policies.