

SCOPE OF PRACTICE-COMPARISON GRID

BEFORE USING THE COMPARISON GRID, PLEASE READ CLARIFYING STATEMENTS @ END OF DOCUMENT

It is important that you read those sections of the DPA that pertain to the Administration of Local Anesthesia & Nitrous Oxide

Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2 of the DPA

It is also important to note that PHS is not a licensure category but a status awarded to Hygienists-PIs. refer to Chapter 2, Section 3

PROCEDURES	CDA		Dental Asst's		EFDA'S	IPDH*	PHS**	RDH	
	Direct	General	Direct	General	Direct			Direct	General
	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision			Supervision	Supervision
ADMINISTRATION OF:									
Local Anesthesia (Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2, Items J.1-J.5)									
➤ Administer local anesthesia if in possession of a current local anesthesia permit**								X	
➤ Obtain a local anesthesia permit (may only be administered under the direct supervision of a Maine licensed dentist)								X	
Nitrous Oxide (Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2, Items D-I)									
➤ Administer nitrous oxide if in possession of a current nitrous oxide permit**								X	
➤ Observe gauges and advise the dentist of any changes in gauge indices or readings (shall not in any way or under any circumstances adjust, manipulate, or control the nitrous oxide apparatus or equipment) during nitrous oxide administration by the dentist without holding a nitrous oxide permit								X	
➤ Obtain a nitrous oxide permit (may only be administered under the direct supervision of a Maine licensed dentist)								X	
AMALGAM / COMPOSITE RESTORATIONS									
➤ Deliver, but not condense or pack, amalgam or composite restoration material	X		X		X			X	
➤ Place and contour amalgam, composite and other restorative materials prior to the final setting and/or curing of the material					X				
➤ Smooth and polish amalgam restorations									X
➤ Smooth and polish amalgam restorations, limited to slow speed application only						X	X		X
ANALYZE / INTERVIEW / INSPECT / INSTRUCT / RECORD / RETRACT									
➤ Perform dietary analyses for dental disease control		X		X	X	X	X		X
➤ Demonstrate to a patient how the patient should place and remove removable prostheses, appliances, or retainers (for instruction purposes)		X		X	X	X	X		X
➤ Give oral health instructions		X		X	X	X	X		X
➤ Interview patients and record complete medical and dental histories						X	X		X
➤ Perform oral inspections, recording all conditions that should be called to the attention of the dentist						X	X		X
➤ Retract lips, cheek, tongue, and other tissue parts		X		X	X	X	X		X
➤ Take and record the vital signs of blood pressure, pulse, and temperature		X		X	X	X	X		X
APPLICATION OF AGENTS									
➤ Apply cavity varnish	X		X		X	X	X		X
➤ Apply desensitizing agents to teeth						X	X		X
➤ Apply liquids, pastes or gel topical anesthetics	X		X		X	X	X		X
➤ Apply pit and fissure sealants after an evaluation of the teeth by the dentist at the time of sealant placement					X				
➤ Apply sealants						X	X		
➤ Apply sealants, provided that a licensed dentist first makes the determination and diagnosis as to the surfaces on which the sealants shall be applied									X
➤ Apply supragingival desensitizing agents to an exposed root surface and/or dentinal surface of teeth					X	X	X		X
➤ Apply topical anesthetics (topical includes superficial and intraoral application)	X				X	X	X		X
➤ Apply topical antimicrobials (excluding antibiotics), including fluoride for the purposes of bacterial reduction, caries control, and desensitization in the oral cavity. The independent practice dental hygienist shall follow current manufacturer's instructions in the use of these medicaments (topical includes superficial and intraoral application)						X			
➤ Apply topical antimicrobials (excluding antibiotics), including fluoride for the purposes of bacterial reduction, caries control, and desensitization in the oral cavity. The practitioner must follow current manufacturer's instructions in the use of these medicaments. For the purposes of this section, 'topical' includes superficial and intrasulcular application.							X		
➤ Apply topical fluorides recognized for the prevention of dental caries					X	X	X		X
➤ Place localized delivery of chemotherapeutic agents when treatment is planned by the dentist									X
CEMENT									
➤ Cement pontics and facings outside the mouth						X	X		X
➤ Cement provisional/temporary crowns and bridges and remove excess cement					X				
➤ Re-cement temporary crowns with temporary cement	X		X		X	X	X		X
➤ Remove excess cement from the supragingival surfaces of teeth		X	X		X	X	X		X
CROWNS / TEMPORARY CROWNS/BRIDGES									
➤ Fabricate temporary crowns and bridges, limiting handpiece rotary instrumentation used in the fabrication only to extraoral use, so long as the dentist checks the occlusion and fit prior to releasing the patient	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Select and try in stainless steel or other preformed crowns for insertion by the dentist	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Place and re-cement temporary crowns with temporary cement	X		X		X	X	X	X	

PROCEDURES	CDA		Dental Asst's		EFDA'S	IPDH*	PHS**	RDH	
	Direct	General	Direct	General	Direct			Direct	General
	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision			Supervision	Supervision
GINGIVAL RETRACTION CORD									
➤ Place gingival retraction cord					X				
➤ Remove gingival retraction cord	X		X		X			X	
➤ Place and remove gingival retraction cord without vasoconstrictor						X	X		X
IRRIGATE									
➤ Irrigate and aspirate the oral cavity		X		X	X	X	X		X
➤ Irrigate and dry root canals	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Perform post-operative irrigation of surgical sites									X
ISOLATE									
➤ Isolate Operative Fields	X		X		X	X	X		X
OBTAIN									
➤ Obtain bacterial sampling when treatment is planned by the dentist									X
ORTHODONTIC RELATED									
➤ Perform preliminary selection and fitting of orthodontic bands, but final placement and cementing in the patient's mouth shall be done by the dentist	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Place elastics and/or instruct in their use	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Place wires, pins and elastic ligatures to tie in orthodontic arch wires that have been fitted and approved by the dentist at the time of insertion	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Prepare tooth sites and surfaces with a rubber cup and pumice for banding or bonding of orthodontic brackets. This procedure shall not be intended or interpreted as an oral prophylaxis, which is a procedure specifically reserved to be performed by dental hygienists or dentists. This procedure also shall not be intended or interpreted as a preparation for restorative material. A dentist or dental hygienist shall check and approve the procedure	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Reapply, on an emergency basis only, orthodontic brackets	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Remove composite material using slow speed instrumentation for de-bonding brackets, as long as the dentist conducts a final check prior to release of the patient	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Remove loose, broken or irritating orthodontic appliances (for the purpose of eliminating pain or discomfort)		X		X	X		X		X
➤ Remove orthodontic arch wires and tension devices and any loose bands or bonds but only as directed by the dentist	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Size, place, and cement/bond orthodontic bands and brackets with final inspection by the dentist.					X				
➤ Take intra-oral measurements and make preliminary selection of arch wires and intra and extra-oral appliances, including head gear	X		X		X		X	X	
PERIODONTAL CHARTING AND PERIODONTAL DRESSINGS (See also Socket Dressings)									
➤ Perform complete periodontal and dental restorative charting						X	X		X
➤ Place periodontal dressings								X	
➤ Place and remove periodontal dressing					X				
➤ Remove periodontal dressings									X
PHOTOGRAPHS									
➤ Take intra-oral photographs		X		X			X		X
PLACE AND/OR REMOVE (See also: Periodontal and Socket Headings)									
➤ Place and remove matrix bands	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Place and remove rubber dams	X		X		X	X	X		X
➤ Place and remove wedges	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Place, hold, or remove celluloid and other plastic strips prior to or subsequent to the placement of a filling by the dentist	X		X		X		X	X	
➤ Place or remove temporary separating devices	X		X		X		X	X	
POLISHING									
➤ Supragingival polishing: A Maine licensed dentist (DDS/DMD) or a Maine licensed hygienist (RDH) must first determine that the teeth to be polished are free of calculus or other extraneous material prior to polishing. Dentists may only permit an EFDA to perform supragingival polishing using a slow speed rotary instrument and rubber cup. Dentists may allow an EFDA to use high-speed, power-driven handpieces/instruments to contour of finish newly-placed composite materials.					X				
PROPHYLAXIS									
➤ Perform all procedures necessary for a complete prophylaxis, including root planing and curettage						X	X		X
RADIOGRAPHS									
➤ Expose and process radiographs									X
➤ Expose and process radiographs upon written standing prescription orders from a dentist who will be available to interpret all dental radiographs within 21 days and completes and signs a radiographic review and findings form							X		
➤ Expose dental radiographs, but only if licensed as a Dental Radiographer		X		X	X				
SEALANTS . . .See Application of Agents									
SMEARS									
➤ Take cytological smears, as requested by the dentist								X	
➤ Take dental plaque smears for microscopic inspection and patient education		X		X			X		X

PROCEDURES	CDA		Dental Asst's		EFDA'S	IPDH*	PHS**	RDH	
	Direct	General	Direct	General	Direct			Direct	General
	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision	Supervision			Supervision	Supervision
SOCKETS									
➤ Change/replace dry socket packets after diagnosed and treatment planned by a dentist.		X		X	X		X		X
➤ Remove socket dressings								X	
SUTURES									
➤ Remove sutures and periodontal dressings									X
➤ Remove sutures with a follow-up appointment with the dentist within 7-10 days of suture removal		X		X			X		
TAKE IMPRESSIONS (for:)									
➤ Athletic Mouth Guards (IPDH'S may also deliver the appliance)						X	X		X
➤ Bleaching Trays					X				X
➤ Custom Trays									X
➤ Fluoride Trays						X	X		X
➤ Nightguards (as long as the dentist takes all measurements and bite registrations)								X	
➤ Occlusal Splints (as long as the dentist takes all measurements & bite registrations)	X		X				X	X	
➤ Opposing Models					X				X
➤ Pour and trim dental models		X		X			X		X
➤ Provisional/temporary crowns and bridges.					X				
➤ Retainers	X								X
➤ Sports Guards					X				
➤ Stents									X
➤ Study Casts					X				X
➤ Take and pour impressions for study casts		X		X			X		X
➤ Take impressions for single-arch athletic mouth guards, and custom fluoride trays	X		X		X	X	X	X	
TEMPORARY FILLINGS/RESTORATIONS (Refer to the Pulpal Pathology Protocols at the end of Chapter 2)									
➤ Place temporary fillings/restorations on an emergency basis, provided that the patient is informed of the temporary nature of the restoration		X							X
➤ Place temporary restorations in compliance with the protocol adopted by the Board						X	X		
TESTS									
➤ Perform pulp tests pursuant to the direction of a dentist							X		X
➤ Perform tooth vitality tests.					X				

CLARIFYING STATEMENTS

- * Pls. note that the column headed IPDH has been designed with those Hygienists in mind that are practicing independently (in a dental hygiene practice vs. those hygienists who hold an IPDH license but are practicing within a dental practice). Those hygienists (both IPDH and RDH) working in a dental office are allowed to perform all duties listed under the RDH columns (refer to 32 § 1094-Q.2).

An IPDH (practicing independently in a dental hygiene practice) **is not allowed** to perform those duties that are listed under Direct Supervision for an RDH. An IPDH (practicing independently in a dental hygiene practice) is allowed to perform **most** of those duties that are listed under General Supervision for an RDH (Pls. refer to Grid).

- ** Pls. note that even with a Local Anesthesia and/or Nitrous Oxide Permit a **hygienist may only administer Local Anesthesia and/or Nitrous Oxide under the direct supervision of a Maine licensed dentist** therefore, these privileges are not listed under the IPDH column (assuming the IPDH is practicing independently in a dental hygiene practice). Should an IPDH hold one or both of these permits the IPDH is allowed to utilize the permit(s) when working under the direct supervision of a Maine licensed dentist in a dental practice.

Certified Dental Assistants may perform those same duties that a Dental Assistant can and in the same manner (Direct or General); those additional duties that a CDA is allowed to perform are indicated in the CDA column.

- *** Pls. be aware that both registered dental (RDH) and independent practice dental hygienists (IPDH) may work under PHS status, however, seeking PHS status as an IPDH is not intended to be a means to take radiographs on all patients nor is it intended as a means to seek payment for all patients. In order for a PHS ID number to be assigned to a project, specific criteria must be met (e.g. must meet an unmet need). PHS hours and patients should be clearly separated from regular hours and patients.

- **** All Expanded Function Dental Assistants work under Direct Supervision, however, since an EFDA must be either a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Hygienist to qualify to enter the EFDA program it would be appropriate to reference those columns that relate to whichever is appropriate for you (CDA / RDH) for further duties allowed under the appropriately related scope of practice.

To obtain Public Health Supervision Status, a hygienist must meet the criteria, must have a supervising dentist, must obtain a PHS ID number from the Board by submitting appropriate paperwork (notification form and standing orders), and must report on the activity to the Board via a reporting form.

Pls. be aware that individual dental practices also have their own policies that must be followed, so just because the scope of practice lists a procedure as an allowable procedure does not guarantee that the practice where you work will have you perform that service. On the other hand if a procedure is not listed as an allowable procedure under scope of practice you may safely assume you cannot perform that service at any practice.