

## **Dental Hygienist**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Under general supervision of the Dental Director and in collaboration with the dental team, the Dental Hygienist is responsible for promoting dental health by completing dental prophylaxis; providing oral cancer screening; taking dental imaging; charting conditions of decay and disease; teaching patients good oral hygiene and performing procedures in compliance with the New Hampshire Dental Practice Act and MCHC dental practice standards.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### ***Clinical Functions:***

- Prepares treatment room for patient by adhering to prescribed procedures, protocols and dental plan.
- Prepares patient for dental hygiene treatment by welcoming, soothing, seating, and draping patient.
- Provides information to patients and staff by responding to questions and requests.
- Selects materials and equipment for dental hygiene visit by evaluating patient's oral health and/or by following the patient's dental treatment plan.
- Completes dental prophylaxis by cleaning deposits and stains from teeth and from beneath gum margins. Takes appropriate dental images.
- Detects disease by completing oral cancer screening; feeling and visually examining gums, using probes to locate periodontal disease and to assess levels of recession, and exposing and developing radiographic studies.
- Arrests dental decay by applying fluorides and other cavity- preventing agents.
- Maintains patient appearance and ability to masticate by fabricating temporary restorations, cleaning and polishing removable appliances, and removing cement from crowns and bridges.
- Educates patients in appropriate oral hygiene strategies to maintain oral health (e.g., tooth brushing, flossing and nutritional counseling)
- Accurately documents dental hygiene services provided in the electronic dental record including vital signs and medical and dental histories.
- Maintains patient confidentiality at all times.
- Maintains instrumentation for dental hygiene treatment by sharpening, sterilizing, and completing preventive maintenance requirements following manufacturer's instructions.
- Maintains safe and clean working environment by complying with procedures, rules, and regulations.
- Protects patients, self, and other staff by adhering to infection-control policies and protocols.
- Maintains dental supplies inventory by checking inventory levels, anticipating needs, and placing orders for supplies.
- Conserves dental resources by using equipment and supplies as needed to accomplish job results.
- Maintains currency with professional and technical knowledge.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

***Performance Improvement Functions:***

- Participates in the quality of dental care provided to meet the patient's and centers needs.
- Participates as a team member ensuring that the MCHC dental program meets all local, state, and FQHC quality and safety requirements.

***General:***

- Demonstrates an understanding of MCHC's mission in performing all aspects of the position.
- Demonstrates commitment to, and understanding of MCHC's Service Excellence Standards, by modeling service excellence in all internal and external relationships, and in performance of all duties and responsibilities of this position.
- Demonstrates a caring and helpful attitude when interacting with patients, vendors and fellow employees. Strives to build cooperative partnerships with internal and external customers.
- Handles confidential information as defined in MCHC's policies.
- Performs other related and/or necessary tasks to achieve organizational and programmatic goals and objectives as requested.
- Participates in other program activities as appropriate.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Graduate of an Accredited dental hygienist program.
- Two years experience in general dentistry practice including current digital imaging and dental health record proficiency.
- Unrestricted license to practice in the State of New Hampshire
- Current CPR (BLS) certifications.
- Medicare and Medicaid provider qualified.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- At least two years experience working with underserved / indigent populations and community based programs.
- CPHDH (Certified public health dental hygienist)
- Local anesthesia endorsement.

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Signed

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Date