

RESOLUTION

Dental Hygienist Profile

Preamble

European Regional Organization of FDI, which represents more than 540.000 dentists Europe wide, aims to promote high standards of oral healthcare and dentistry and effective patient-safety centred professional practice.

All members of the dental team should use only those qualifications or titles, which are approved by the competent dental authority in their countries (legislation in the establishment country, place of work, country of practice).

In those ERO Member States where dental hygienist healthcare profile exists, the requirements for education, training and field of competences are very different.

The following professional profile, described, educated and trained by Dental Profession besides the “Dental Chair side Assistant“ and the “Dental Preventive Assistant’s” Profile, is the “Dental Hygienist’s” Profile.

The European Regional Organization of the FDI wants to contribute to patient safety through the development of an appropriate policy of the dental team as well as for the relationship of the dental team with patients.

For these reasons, European Dental Organizations submitted this Profile of DH to the ERO Plenary assembly dated 25th April 2015.

Dental Hygienist Professional Profile

The Dental Hygienist works in private and public dental practices only under the supervision of the dentist.

The dental hygienist is trained and examined according to the following professional profile as described in the Annex.

The dental hygienist helps the dentist as responsible for the promotion and maintenance of good oral/dental hygiene.

In addition to the skills and knowledge of Dental Chair Assistants (DCA), Dental Preventive Assistants (DPA), the Dental Hygienist shall acquire and improve skills and knowledge in the following fields which are also listed in the annex:

Technical and Professional Skills

- Implement individualized prevention programs approved by the dentist
- Assist on Clinical Records
- Take, collect and keep radiographic and photographic documentation
- Collect and record clinical dental and periodontal indexes

- Perform non-surgical periodontal therapies under the supervision of the dentist
- To be knowledgeable about the properties of the topical preventive pharmacology and their application
- Topical pharmacologic application for prevention

Perform Oral Health Prevention

- To motivate continuously the patient
- Educate and train the patient about home based oral health preventive measures and good oral hygiene practices
- To emphasize the importance and incite the public awareness about the need and importance of periodic clinical oral/dental check-ups
- To indicate the importance of an adequate and balanced diet for the protection of the oral/dental health
- Sensitize parents
- To implement preventive programs: in pregnancy, in new born child, in child, in primary and secondary schools, in patient with special needs, in elder patients and for people living in deprived communities
- To motivate the children about topical fluoride applications and procedures without drilling
- To do counselling for smoking cessation
- To give advice for oral cancer prevention
- To remove extrinsic discolorations and pigmentations of the teeth through polishing
- To polish, to smooth the dental restorations

Trainee Admission

As initial requirement for the dental hygienist training:

The trainee should have fulfilled a training as DCA and DPA and should have practiced one year as DPA.

Minimum Training Requirements

In addition the Training Provider should provide at least 300 additional hours of education and training.

Organizing Body:

- The Training Body should be accredited by the Regulatory Body of the Country.

Professionality:

- Course Coordinator: graduated with teaching-experience in the medical-dental sector;
- Headmasters: at least 3 years of experience in the professional practice and didactic experience in the dental field.

Necessary Structures and equipment:

- Room for theory lesson and teaching devices to be used for the lesson in conformity with the current legislation.
- Training opportunities with the basic equipments of dental practice.

Final Examination

Admission to the final examination is subject to the positive presentation of the candidate and is approved by the organizing body on the basis of tests and internal admission examinations.

The qualification issued by the statutory testing body is awarded only after a practical exercise and a final examination in front of a committee composed of the competent authorities and representatives of national dental associations.

Acquired Rights/Transitional Condition

For European Union Countries DH profile is a profile that doesn't belong to a regulated profession under the umbrella of PQD 36/2005: in those countries where this profile exists, it is not possible to have an automatic mutual or partial recognition, according to paragraph 6 , article 4 f).

In countries where there is no DH's Profile, it is not possible to practice in any case.

Continuing Education

A DH is expected to attend continuing education courses in line with the specific requirements of the country concerned.

Registration/Regulatory Authority

According the country legislation