

# New Dental Hygienists Regulation

## Enacted:

# What you need to know for your practice

Changes to the *Dental Hygienists Regulation* are now in effect. This document provides a brief summary of how the changes may affect your practice. Please ensure to review currently available materials such as the FAQs, as well as future communications, for further details and information.

### **The 365 Day Rule has been removed.**

There is no longer a regulatory requirement related to a dental exam being necessary for dental hygiene care. Dental hygienists must continue to practice collaboratively using a client-centered approach, which is pivotal to ensuring clients' comprehensive oral health needs are met.

### **The ability to make a diagnosis is now included in the regulation.**

For the purposes of the regulation, a dental hygiene diagnosis identifies gingivitis or periodontitis as the cause of the signs or symptoms of an individual. Registrants are still expected to identify or recognize other oral conditions outside the 'range of normal' and make the appropriate recommendations and referrals.

### **Having a dentist on site during L/A administration is no longer a regulatory requirement.**

Dental hygienists who are L/A certified (C) are now able to administer local anaesthetic (L/A) without a dentist on site. At this time, the dental hygienist can continue to follow existing office protocols when selecting the type of local anaesthetic and as always, is responsible for their documentation.

### **The ability to self-initiate intra-oral radiographs for the purpose of dental hygiene care is included in the new regulation.**

Please review new Practice Standard #9 for further information about radiographs, including the ability for registrants to expose extra-oral radiographs.

### **The regulation contains enhanced clarity related to prescription drugs.**

The College is working in collaboration with other health regulated professions to determine appropriate requirements on this topic.

### **The new regulation includes language related to private dental hygiene practice.**

Please review new Practice Standard #10 for further information about private dental hygiene practice, including requirements for recommending a dental exam.

### **Should it occur during the course of dental hygiene care, the reduction of a complete dislocation of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) using manual therapy is included in the regulation.**