

# HOUSE OF DELEGATES POLICIES

## GLOSSARY

Accredited Dental Hygiene Program: A dental hygiene program that achieves or exceeds the established minimum standard set by a United States Department of Education (USDOE)-recognized regional accrediting agency and the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The curriculum shall be at the appropriate level to enable matriculation into a baccalaureate, masters or doctoral degree program. The entry-level dental hygiene education program shall:

- Award a minimum of an associate level degree, the credits of which are transferable to a 4-year institution and applicable toward a baccalaureate.
- Retain control of curricular and clinical components.
- Include at least two academic years of full time instruction or its equivalent in academic credits earned at the post-secondary college level.
- Encompass both liberal arts and dental hygiene science course work sufficient to prepare the practitioner to assume licensure in any jurisdiction.

02-00

Accreditation: A formal, voluntary non-governmental process that establishes a minimum set of national standards which promote and assure quality in educational institutions and their programs and serves as a mechanism to protect the public.

01-00

Advanced dental hygiene practitioner: A registered dental hygienist, who has completed an advanced educational curriculum approved by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, which prepares the registered dental hygienist to provide diagnostic, preventive, restorative and therapeutic services directly to the public.

02-04

Advanced Practice Dental Hygiene: Clinical and diagnostic services provided in addition to those services permitted to an entry-level dental hygienist, including services that require a higher level of clinical decision-making, judgment, and problem solving. Completion of clinical and academic educational program beyond the first professional degree required for entry level licensure which qualifies the dental hygienist to provide advanced practice services in direct access settings and collaborative relationships. Documentation of proficiency such as professional certification.

08-13

At-Risk Population: A community or group of people whose social or physical determinants, environmental factors, or personal behaviors increase their probability of developing disease.

03-11

**Bacterial Decontamination: A method or modality whereby pathogenic bacteria are targeted, disabled and/or destroyed at a microscopic level in order to reduce inflammation and promote healing.**

02-23

Collaborative Practice: An agreement that authorizes the dental hygienist to establish a cooperative working relationship with another health care provider in the provision of patient care. Collaborative practice includes the discussion of patient diagnosis and cooperation in the management and delivery of oral health care. 05-11

Continued Competency: The ongoing application of knowledge, judgment, attitudes, and abilities in a manner consistent with the contemporary standards of the profession, to maintain skills essential to perform dental hygiene functions effectively. 01-15

Cultural Humility: Incorporation of a lifelong commitment to self-evaluation and self-critique, to redress the power imbalances in the patient-provider dynamic and to develop mutually beneficial and non-paternalistic clinical and advocacy partnerships with communities on behalf of individuals and defined populations. 03-22

Dental Home: A relationship between a person and a specific team of health professionals, led by a licensed dental provider. The dental home is an ongoing partnership that coordinates comprehensive, accessible and culturally sensitive care through the delivery of oral health services as part of integrated health care. 05-09

Dental Hygiene Actions: Cognitive, affective, and psychomotor performances that include assessing, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementing, evaluating, and documenting (dental hygiene process of care) of preventive and therapeutic oral health care. They are provided in independent, interdependent, and collaborative relationships with the client and health care team members. 13-15 / 07-17

Dental Hygiene Process:

- Assessment: The systemic collection and analysis of data in order to identify client needs.
- Diagnosis: The identification of client strengths and oral hygiene problems dental hygiene interventions can improve.
- Planning: The establishment of realistic goals and the selection of dental hygiene interventions that move the client closer to optimal oral health.
- Implementation: The act of carrying out the dental hygiene plan of care.
- Evaluation: The measurement of the extent to which the client has achieved the goals specified in the dental hygiene care plan. The dental hygienist uses evidence-based decisions to continue, discontinue, or modify the care plan based on the ongoing reassessments and subsequent diagnoses.
- \*In the Dental Hygiene Process, client may refer to individuals, families, groups, or communities as defined in the American Dental Hygienists' Association Framework for theory Development. 10-97

Dental Hygienist Defined: That The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes that dental hygiene is the health profession, which, in cooperation with other health professions, provides services to promote optimal oral health for the public. The licensed dental hygienist performs and/or supervises the delivery of oral health care services as regulated under state dental and/or dental hygiene practice acts. Graduation from a program which has a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution

of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education and a didactic examination is a required prerequisite for licensure and practice. Dental hygienists practice in health-oriented settings such as: general or specialty private practice, community health agencies, dental and dental auxiliary schools, public schools, hospitals, biomedical research facilities, government agencies, industry, public and private health centers. Within these settings the dental hygienist may serve as clinician, health promoter/educator, consumer advocate, administrator/manager, change agent and researcher. 12-90

Dental Hygiene Diagnosis: The identification of an individual's health status, behaviors, attitudes, and oral health care needs by a dental hygienist, who is educationally qualified and licensed to provide. The dental hygiene diagnosis requires evidence-based critical analysis and interpretation of assessments in order to reach conclusions about the patient's dental hygiene treatment needs. The dental hygiene diagnosis provides the basis for the dental hygiene care plan. 02-14

Dental Public Health: The art and science of preventing and controlling dental disease and promoting dental health through organized community efforts. It is the form of dental practice which serves the community as a patient rather than the individual. It is concerned with the dental health education of the public, with research and the application of findings from research, with the administration of programs of dental care for groups, and with the prevention and control of disease through a community approach. 01-95

Dental Public Health Setting: Any setting where population-based, community-focused oral health interventions can be used and evaluated as a means to prevent or control disease. 02-11

Dental Therapist: A licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) approved dental therapy program and who provides primary oral health care directly to patients/clients to promote and restore oral health through assessment, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation and referral services. 02-19

Dental Triage: The screening of clients to determine priority of treatment needs. 05-05

Direct Access: The ability of a dental hygienist to initiate treatment based on their assessment of a patient's needs without the specific authorization of a dentist, treat the patient without the presence of a dentist, and maintain a provider-patient relationship. 07-15

Documentation: The complete and accurate recording of all collected data, treatment planned and provided, recommendations, referrals, prescriptions, patient/client comments and related communication, treatment outcomes and patient satisfaction and other information relevant to patient care and treatment. 03-10 / 02-16

Diversity: The characteristics and backgrounds that make people unique. 06-21

Essential Community Provider: A health provider who serves populations with inadequate access to care. 06-14

Evidence-based: Concepts or strategies that are derived from or informed by the best available scientific literature and a focused review of the most current research on the topic of interest. 07-16

Fact Sheet: A document that summarizes key points of information for distribution. 04-09

Health Equity: Attainment of the highest level of health for all people and the elimination of health disparities. 05-16

Interdisciplinary Care: Two or more healthcare providers working within their respective disciplines who collaborate with the patient and /or caregiver to develop and implement a care plan. 05-10

Interprofessional: A concept which describes the collaboration of two or more professions in the delivery of health care which may contribute to improved individual and public health outcomes. 04-18

Interprofessional Education: When students and/or professionals from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other, to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. 3-16

Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner: A licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and who provides primary oral health care directly to patients to promote and restore oral health through assessment, diagnosis, treatment, documentation, evaluation and referral services. The Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner has met the educational requirements to provide services within a expanded scope of care, and practices under regulations set forth by the appropriate licensing agency. 04-10

NPI number: The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Administrative Simplification Standard. The NPI is a unique identification number for covered health care providers. Covered health care providers and all health plans and health care clearinghouses must use the NPIs in the administrative and financial transactions adopted under HIPAA. The NPI is a 10-position, intelligence-free numeric identifier (10-digit number). This means that the numbers do not carry other information about healthcare providers, such as the state in which they live or their medical specialty. The NPI must be used in lieu of legacy provider identifiers in the HIPAA standards transactions. As outlined in the Federal Regulation, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), covered providers must also share their NPI with other providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and any entity that may need it for billing purposes. 14-20

Needs Assessment: A systematic process used to establish priorities for future action using the dental hygiene process of care. 03-14

Optimal Oral Health: A standard of health of the oral and related tissues which enables an individual to eat, speak, and socialize without active disease, discomfort or embarrassment, and which contributes to general well-being and overall total health. 03-99

Oral Biofilm: A mixed community of supragingival, aerobic organisms and deeper layers of more complex and resistant subgingival anaerobic organisms that form a highly organized, three-dimensional communal arrangement of virulent microorganisms that adhere to surfaces where moisture and nutrients are available. 08-21

Oral Health Equity: Providing necessary resources and assistance to achieve successful health outcomes for all populations. 05-22

Oral Prophylaxis: The supra -and subgingival removal of biofilm, calculus and extrinsic stains from tooth and prosthetic structures, to preserve health and prevent disease. 08-19

Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy (OMT): Treatment of the orofacial musculature to improve muscle balance & tonicity, enable functional breathing & establish correct functional activities of the tongue, lips & mandible so that normal growth & development of the face and dentition may take place in a stable, homeostatic environment for patients of all ages. 12-20

Position Paper: A written document that summarizes the organization's viewpoint on a specific topic, which includes supporting research and is approved by the House of Delegates. The purpose is to communicate to members and external audiences. 04-99

Practice: The continuing competence, lifelong learning and ongoing professional development for dental hygienists. 08-14

Primary Dental Hygiene Care Provider: The dental hygienist is a primary care oral health professional who administers a range of services which are defined by the scope, characteristics and integration of care.

Scope of Primary Care:

Consists of the assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation and documentation of procedures for promoting the highest level of health possible to the patient.

Characteristics of Primary Care:

First contact for care is initiated by the patient or other person who assumes responsibility for the patient and takes place in a variety of practice settings.

Integration of Primary Care:

Providers serve as the entry and control point linking the patient to total health care systems by providing coordination with other specialized health or social services to ensure that the patient receives comprehensive and continuous care at a single point in time, as well as over a period of time.

The American Dental Hygienists' Association identifies a primary care provider of services as any person who by virtue of dental hygiene licensure, graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program, and a defined scope of practice, provides one or more of these services defined under the scope of primary care. 09-90/05-14

Professional Autonomy: A profession's authority and responsibility for its own standards of education, regulation, practice, licensing, and discipline. 06-10

Professional Roles of the Dental Hygienist: The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the professional roles of the dental hygienist to include, but not limited to, educational, administrative, research, entrepreneurial, public health, and corporate positions, with advocacy being an integral component of all. 08-05/07-20

Public Health Dental Hygiene Discipline Statement and Paradigm Concept: The discipline of public dental hygiene is that form of dental hygiene practice, which serves the community as a client/patient rather than the individual. It is concerned with the dental health education of the public, with research and the application of findings from research, with the administration of programs of dental care for groups, and with the prevention and control of disease through a community approach. It involves the assessment; planning, organization, delivery, and evaluation of dental programs in concert with community members and other public health care providers. Public health dental hygienists may serve their communities as direct providers of preventive services, dental health educators, program planners, administrators, researchers, patient advocates and policy developers. 02-95

Self-Regulation: Regulation of dental hygiene practice by registered dental hygienists who are graduates of an accredited dental hygiene program, who define the scope of practice, set educational requirements and licensure standards, and regulate and discipline dental hygienists. 05-01/09-13

Social Determinants of Health: Conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. 05-21

**Social Media: Digital-based platforms where users create, share, engage with and react to content and information or participate in social networking.** 04-13/03-23

Telehealth: The use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health related education, public health and health administration. Technologies include, but are not limited to, videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications. 03-17

Wellness: A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. 08-20

White Paper: An authoritative report or guide that provides information about emerging knowledge and issues on a specific topic. 03-09

## **EDUCATION**

### *Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. opposes any reduction of education standards and/or requirements for initial licensure of dental hygienists. 03-89

### *Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports accreditation standards that prepare entry-level dental hygienists to assume all the professional roles of the dental hygienist in a variety of settings to meet the preventive and therapeutic health care needs of the public. 09-05

### *Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates accreditation by the dental hygiene profession of all entry level, degree completion, and graduate dental hygiene programs. 03-01/09-12

### *Education/Career Recruitment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the recruitment of individuals who have received training in the technical procedures associated with dental hygiene to enroll in dental hygiene programs which have a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education. 08-90

### *Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports all aspects of formal dental hygiene education from an accredited program which includes certificate, associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degree programs. 09-19

### *Education/Career Recruitment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygienists be the primary professional to develop, coordinate, and evaluate dental hygiene career recruitment programs that include entry, retention, and re-entry into the dental hygiene profession. 07-91

### *Education/Competence*

The knowledge of processing dental insurance should be considered essential within the realm of the profession of dental hygiene, and that CDHA endorses the necessity for educational courses for CDHA members and student members of ADHA to learn about dental insurance and form processing. 03-76

### *Education/Competence*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the operation of extraoral and intraoral imaging devices only by qualified individuals who have successfully completed approved courses that meet state and/or federal regulations for radiation safety. 08-88

### *Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports all aspects of formal dental hygiene education which includes certificate, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs; however, CDHA supports ADHA's intent to establish the baccalaureate degree as the

minimum entry level for dental hygiene practice in the future and to develop the theoretical base for dental hygiene practice. 03-87

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports all aspects of formal dental hygiene education from an accredited program which includes certificate, associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degree programs. 09-19

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the Baccalaureate Degree in Dental Hygiene Program:

1. Programs offering a baccalaureate degree should provide an education consistent with standards in higher education. The baccalaureate curriculum should be conducted at a level which allows for admission to university graduate programs. The curriculum should incorporate a substantive body of knowledge in the social, behavioral and biological sciences as prerequisites for entrance into advanced disciplines.
2. Baccalaureate programs conferring the Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene should provide advanced knowledge and skill in dental hygiene. These curricula should prepare graduates for expanding roles in the delivery of oral health services. These services shall be determined by projected dental health needs, potential for the dental hygienist to provide services to meet these needs and the ability of the dental hygiene program to provide instruction in these areas.
3. The curricula should allow for integration of all liberal arts, biomedical sciences, oral health sciences and dental hygiene science content and shall provide a theoretical framework for all aspects of dental hygiene practice.
4. Baccalaureate degree programs are encouraged to develop four-year dental integrated hygiene curricula. 17-88

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes Master's Degree Dental Hygiene Program:

1. Master's degree programs in dental hygiene should be at an education level equivalent to master's degree programs in other disciplines and allow further pursuit of advance degrees.
2. Curricula should be designed to provide dental hygienists with advance concepts in social, behavioral and biological sciences and dental hygiene practice. It should provide dental hygienists with the skills necessary to contribute to the expansion of the dental hygiene body of knowledge through research. 18-88

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the development and implementation of flexibly and innovatively scheduled and technologically advanced educational delivery systems only when clinical, didactic and laboratory education is provided through an accredited dental hygiene program. 05-90/16-20

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the initiation of new dental hygiene educational programs if:



~there is a qualified applicant pool.  
~the program offers an integrated curriculum that culminates in a baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene.  
~the program has financial resources to initiate and maintain dental hygienists' education standards.  
~the program is supported by the Component and Constituent dental hygiene associations.  
~the program meets the appropriate accreditation requirements prior to acceptance of students. 03-92

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorse private and/or public funding to subsidize dental hygiene education in dental hygiene programs that are licensed by the State of Connecticut and are accredited and recognized by the Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation. 20-92

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support dental hygiene curricula that leads to competency in the dental hygiene process of care: assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation. 06-93/10-15

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports development of a standardized educational curriculum by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, for the advanced dental hygiene practitioner. 04-04

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports specialty certification program opportunities for registered dental hygienists. 06-20

*Education/Faculty/Administrators*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. encourages all dental hygiene faculty to be members of their professional dental hygiene organization. 13-88

*Education/Faculty/Administrators*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygiene educational programs be administered or directed only by educationally qualified actively licensed dental hygienists. Directors who do not have a Connecticut license should obtain said license within 18 months. 05-99

*Education/Interprofessional Education*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for the integration of interprofessional education into the dental hygiene curriculum. 04-16

## **ETHICS**

### *Ethics/Career Recruitment*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports increasing diversity within the profession of dental hygiene. 02-06

### *Ethics/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the inclusion on nondiscriminatory clauses in all contracts awarded by federal agencies and private foundations. 07-86

### *Ethics/Cultural Humility*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for cultural humility. 04-22

### *Ethics/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the dental hygienist as an educated professional who has graduated from a dental hygiene program which has a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education and whose qualifications are confirmed by a didactic licensing examination. Therefore, the dental hygienist, duly licensed by the State in which he/she practices and subject to the disciplinary actions of the regulatory board is responsible for the quality of dental hygiene services he/she rendered. 13-90

### *Ethics/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygienists, as health care professionals, are responsible for reporting suspected abuse and/or neglect of any dependent individual to the proper authorities. 04-92

### *Ethics/Scope of Practice*

A complaint against a hygienist be accepted by the CDHA Board of Trustees and guarantee anonymity from the Department of Public Health, if applicable. 16-05

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### *Membership/Branding*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports using the brand which is consistent with the current brand ADHA Connecticut. 08-11

### *Membership/Diversity*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. is an inclusive organization. We value differences within our membership and we recognize that diversity adds value to our organization, our mission and the quality of programs and services. 06-11

### *Membership/Diversity*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the inclusion, diversity, equity, and access; and recognizes they value it adds to our organization, our mission and the quality of our programs and services. 03-21

*Membership/Dues*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. Life, Retired/Senior and Honorary members be exempted from paying CDHA dues. 04-88

*Membership/Retired Benefits*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. retired members receive CDHA publications as a benefit of retired membership status. 22-88

*Membership/Rights*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. voting members shall be entitled to:  
A membership certificate issued annually by ADHA. The right to vote on all matters requiring a vote by members of THE CONNECTICUT DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC. or the Component to which the member belongs. Eligibility for election as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to ADHA and the CDHA House of Delegates and eligibility for election or appointment to any office, committee Board of Trustees, or similar position in ADHA, CDHA or Component, if qualified. Subscription to any official publication of CDHA. Admission to any general meeting of CDHA. Such other Rights as the Board of Trustees or House of Delegates may from time to time determine. 20-88

*Membership/Rights*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. non-voting members shall be entitled to:  
A membership certificate issued to honorary and allied members only by CDHA.  
Subscription to any official publication of CDHA.  
Admission to any general meeting of CDHA.  
Such other Rights as the Board of Trustees or House of Delegates may from time to time determine. 21-88

**PRACTICE**

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. believes that in order to be most effective in the delivery of primary preventive dental care to all people, services of the dental hygienist should be fully utilized in all public and private practice settings. 04-87

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the elimination of barriers restricting the practice of dental hygiene by licensed dental hygienists. 19-87

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that any national health insurance program include benefits for preventive and therapeutic oral health care. 10-92

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognize and advise Managed Care Organizations that respond to the opportunity to increase access to the benefits of preventative and therapeutic procedures provided by RDH's. The Managed Care Organizations must provide for the delivery of care consistent with the American Dental Hygienists' Association

/Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association Code of Ethics and follow current dental models of care. 09-97

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the inclusion and utilization of dental hygienists in response to events of bio-terrorism and catastrophe. 07-03

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports legislation granting immunity to dental hygienists when responding to any disaster or emergency situation, so declared by appropriate authority. 08-03

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses the addition of a dental hygiene examination code to the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature. 21-05

*Practice/Access to Care*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses a mandatory comprehensive oral examination by a licensed dental hygienist or dentist, with referral for appropriate follow up care upon entry into primary, middle and secondary schools or entry into a new school or school district. 03-06

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for an oral health assessment and evaluation by a licensed dental professional with referral for appropriate oral health care for individuals entering or residing in long term care facilities or utilizing public health settings. 06-22

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for every dental hygienist to apply for and obtain a National Provider Identification (NPI) number. 04-20

*Practice/Career Recruitment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the ability and right of all people to obtain the services of a dental hygienist without restrictions. 08-15

*Practice/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses that no individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, age, sex, sexual preference, cultural heritage, socioeconomic status or disability and shall have full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages including, but not limited to, access of care, education, and employment opportunities. 13-93

*Practice/Community Health*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the dental hygienists' role in community outreach, care coordination and the addressing of social determinants of health. 04-21

*Practice/Credentials*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports maintaining a document on guidelines for displaying hygienist credentials. 11-21

*Practice/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. 04-01

*Practice/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. believes that dental hygienists are ethically and morally responsible to provide dental hygiene care to all patients including those who may have or have been exposed to infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis B, utilizing nationally accepted infection control and barrier techniques. 11-88

*Practice/Employment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the federal government's Fair Labor Standards Act in which dental hygienists must, as employees, be issued a W2 by their permanent or temporary employers with appropriate government withholdings made from their wages, as appropriate to this statute. 05-20

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. believes that dental hygienists should be involved in measuring and recording blood pressures on patients as part of conducting a thorough health history. 02-84

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the use of current/safe diagnostic technology (including radiation) techniques. 09-10

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the concept that a licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from a dental hygiene program which has a minimum of two academic years of curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education, may own a dental hygiene practice, or enter into a contractual arrangement to provide dental hygiene services in accordance with state dental and/or dental hygiene practice acts. 02-91

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. opposes mandatory HIV testing. 05-92

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that the scope of dental hygiene practice includes utilization of appropriate and effective pain management. 13-92

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports comprehensive risk-based assessment of the patient's needs prior to and throughout the delivery of oral health services. 07-10

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. adopts the following dental hygiene discipline statement and the paradigm concept: the discipline of dental hygiene is the art and science of preventive oral health care including the management of behaviors that promote health and prevent disease. Preventive oral health care includes:

1. The coordination and delivery of primary preventive oral health educational and clinical services,
2. The provision of secondary preventive intervention to prevent further disease and to promote overall health, and
3. The facilitation of the client's access to care and implementation of mutually agreed-upon oral health care goals.

These methods of preventing oral disease and promoting wellness are provided by the dental hygienist in collaboration with the health care team in a variety of settings to all populations -- those served, those under-served and those outside the oral health care system. Within the domain of dental hygiene the main concepts studied are the client, the environment in which the client and dental hygienist find themselves, the promotion of health/oral health, and the dental hygiene actions, which lead the client to oral health and wellness. 07-93

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports compliance with all the current standard of care for antibiotic prophylaxis recommended by the American Heart Association and/or client's physician of record. 06-96

*Practice/Patient Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for diagnostic codes, procedure codes, nomenclature and descriptors that are consistent with scientific literature regarding evidence-based practices in dentistry and dental hygiene. 05-17

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses the monitoring of nitrous oxide analgesia by registered dental hygienists provided that the registered dental hygienist completes a certified course. 07-96

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the development and utilization of emerging technologies that maximize human health and safety. 12-97

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates current certification in basic life support for the professional rescuer (American Red Cross) or the healthcare provider (American Heart Association) and automated external defibrillation course completion for dental hygienists. 02-99

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's standards to assure safe and healthful working conditions for dental health care workers (including but not limited to blood borne pathogens, hazard communications, workplace violence prevention, ergonomics, noise protection, radiation safety, etc.).

10-00

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates amendment of state practice acts to allow dental hygienists who are graduates of accredited dental hygiene programs to utilize any evidence based treatment modality or device in providing oral health services.

08-01

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates evidence-based oral health management strategies for the prevention of oral and systemic diseases.

01-05

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. promotes the education of all health care providers and consumers on the importance of utilizing an identification system for all removable appliances and prostheses.

05-08

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for evidence-based disease-causing oral biofilm management strategies that reduce overall health risks for prevention and control of oral and systemic diseases.

07-22

*Practice/Provider Safety*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommendations for vaccinations, evaluations, and follow-up procedures of (DHCP) Dental Health Care Providers. THE CONNECTICUT DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC. strongly advocates CDC recommendation for DHCP to be vaccinated or have documented immunity to diseases that have been identified as substantial risk for acquiring or transmitting

01-04

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses and acknowledges the value of placing time released antibiotics/therapeutic materials subgingivally by dental hygienists.

11-96

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for a comprehensive oral assessment and evaluation by a dental hygienist or a dental therapist, with referral for appropriate follow up care, for students entering into primary, middle, and secondary education.

06-17

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for a comprehensive oral assessment and evaluation by a licensed dental hygienist or a midlevel oral health practitioner, with referral for appropriate oral health care, for older adults entering into or utilizing a long-term

care facility or a public health setting. 07-18

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. designate polishing of enamel to be a selective procedure and not a routine part of an oral prophylaxis, and that the decision to polish a patient's/client tooth should be based on a dental hygienist's assessment of patient/client needs. 07-97

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports legislative change to the Connecticut Dental Hygiene Practice Act to include dental hygiene diagnosis. 04-03

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports dental hygienists, as primary care providers to receive direct reimbursement from third party payers for covered services that are legally within the scope of the dental hygiene practice. 06-06

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the utilization of licensed dental hygienists as dental care coordinators. 10-06

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the licensed dental hygiene scope of practice to include dental hygiene diagnosis, dental triage, taking impressions for preventive and therapeutic devices, doing chairside adjustments of devices and placing temporary restorations. 11-06

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, supports the dental hygienists' ability to prescribe, administer and dispense all evidence-based preventive and therapeutic fluorides. 03-18

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. promote legislation for certification for the use of LASER therapy by registered dental hygienists. 04-08

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, supports the expansion of scope for dental hygienists to administer and monitor nitrous oxide. 08-18

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association Inc., advocates that the dental hygiene diagnosis is a necessary and intrinsic element of dental hygiene education and scope of practice. 07-09

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the practice of the licensed dental hygienist who is certified as a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) approved dental



therapist. 03-19

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the practice of local anesthesia under general supervision. 09-18

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association acknowledges and supports registered dental hygienists who are educated in Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy (OMT). The dental hygienist educated in OMT may provide orofacial myofunctional assessments and treatment independently in a variety of practice settings and for patients of all ages. 13-20/07-21

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports expanded oral cancer and oropharyngeal screening for all patients for earliest referral and diagnosis. 15-20

*Practice/Setting*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support a campaign with the goal of having at least one (1) dental hygienist in every practice setting in the State. 10-83

*Practice/Setting*

*Research/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates research designed to provide the scientific basis for broadening the scope of dental hygiene practice. 07-92

*Research/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the basic science and applied research in the investigation of health promotion/disease prevention and theoretical frameworks, which form the basis of education and practice. 08-95

*Research/Patient Centered Outcome Research*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates outcome research that is patient centered and focused on both preventive and oral health interventions that lead to improved health outcomes, quality care and increased patient care satisfaction in all practice settings. 06-16

*Research/Guidelines for Controlled Substances*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the need for further research and the development of clinical guidelines for the management of patients, their caregivers and the dental team who are under the influence of controlled substances and recreational drugs. 02-22

*Practice/Setting*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports expanding the public health practice settings for the dental hygienist. 07-08

*Practice/Third Party Payment*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the inclusion of dental hygienists as primary care providers having representation with the decision-making body(s) in

order to provide dental hygienists' input when third party policy payment reimbursement and procedure definitions are formulated. Furthermore, that this representation be able to give input for the establishment of procedure codes that allow reimbursement for dental hygienists for the allowable procedure as established by state statutes. 10-14

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### *Professional Development/ Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the acceptance of continuing education courses in the dental hygiene process: assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation. 04-93

### *Professional Development/ Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association recommends amending the continuing education regulations of the State of Connecticut with the following:

#### CE Credits

Increase required Continuing Education credits per monitoring period to 24 credit hours.

#### Provider definitions

Expand the number of provider definitions to include additional organizations and institutions.

#### Self- Study

To define and allow self-study instruction. "Self study instruction" means instruction which an individual is instructed through on-line coursework, refereed or peer reviewed journals offered or sponsored by a qualifying provider for continuing education activity.

#### Content area for continuing education

Expand content areas for continuing education credit.

#### Awards of credit hours

Recommend 1 credit hour per day for attendance at a multi-day convention type meeting at the state, regional or national level.

Recommend 24 credit hours for full time post-dental hygiene graduate enrollment in an advanced educational program.

Recommend 2 credit hours for part time post-dental hygiene graduate enrollment in an advanced educational program per 1 (one) college credit hour.

Recommend 1 credit hour, up to a maximum of 10 contact hours in a 24-month period, for 8 hours of volunteer dental hygiene practice at a public health facility. 17-05

### *Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates collaborative continuing education efforts with other health disciplines to promote optimal total health. 07-05

### *Professional Development/ Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that licensing agencies accept higher education credits pertaining to any of the professional roles of the dental hygienist for continuing education credit. 10-05

### *Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. promotes education of dental and medical personnel on the paradigm of a dental home by one. 02-08

*Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., advocate continued competence, lifelong learning and ongoing professional development for dental hygienists, which includes the dental hygiene process of care: assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation and documentation. 05-12

*Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the role of dental hygienists in research, including their contributions to interdisciplinary studies and practice. 12-15

*Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the inclusion of one hour of Continuing Education Credit in Cultural Competency within continuing education requirements for all dental hygienists. 15-15

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the importance of comprehensive oral health services in the design of health care programs for special needs patients. 05-87

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports programs that inform health care providers and consumers of the scope of dental hygiene practice as it benefits total health care and health care delivery system. 07-89

*Public Health/ Interprofessional*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports interprofessional advocacy of public, social, ecological, socio economic, mental, and legal aspects and collaborates with colleagues outside of dentistry to create a collaborated treatment plan of action that uses interprofessional collaboration. 05-18/09-20

*Public Health/Interprofessional*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the inclusion of and utilization of dental hygienists in response to local, state, national, and global crises. 02-20

*Public Health/Interprofessional*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates dental hygienists be included in local, state, and national crisis response policies. 03-20

*Public Health/Older Adults*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for legislation, policies, programs and research to foster optimal oral health for older adults. 06-18

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports access to comprehensive health care including oral health care for all people. 03-91

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygiene practice is an integral component of the health care delivery system and that the services provided by a dental hygienist may be performed in cooperation with other health care professionals within the overall health care needs of the patient. 9-91

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. affirms that its fundamental commitment to optimal oral health for all people and its willingness to cooperate closely and actively with all agencies and individuals who share this commitment. 10-93

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. encourages its members to actively participate in community oral health consortium, collaborative, and advisory groups. 02-02

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates loan forgiveness programs for licensed dental hygienists who provide dental hygiene services to underserved sectors of the population in public health settings. 06-03

*Public Health/ Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorse a mandatory dental exam by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist, with referral for appropriate follow-up care, upon entry into kindergarten, sixth and tenth grades or new entrance into a district. 20-05

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports an increase in the rate of Medicaid/HUSKY reimbursement fees with an annual cost of living increase for dental services provided to patients under the age of 21. 09-06

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports comprehensive oral health programs and services that reach at risk populations. 10-09

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association Inc. advocates that any health insurance program include benefits for preventive, restorative and therapeutic oral health care. 11-09

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., supports expanding access to preventive, restorative and therapeutic care within the dental hygiene scope of practice. 12-09

*Public Health/Access to Care/PH Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support and actively pursue legislation that will mandate the provision of preventive dental care programs in Connecticut schools, and further, that such services be provided under direction of a registered dental hygienist. 09-83

*Public Health/Access to Care/Workforce Models*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports oral health care workforce models that culminate in: Graduation from an accredited institution; Professional licensure; Direct access to patient care. 06-09

*Public Health/Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the addition of written warning labels on smokeless tobacco products as well as education about the hazards of the products. 22-86

*Public Health/Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. encourages dental hygienists to support education, information, and referral regarding substance misuse and addiction. 18-87

*Public Health/Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. opposes the use, marketing and distribution of tobacco products and promotional look-alike products. To this cause, CDHA supports the legislation which prohibits the sale of tobacco products to minors. CDHA also supports the prevention and cessation of tobacco usage through written warning labels on all tobacco products and public education regarding the harmful aspects of tobacco on oral/total health. 06-95

*Public Health/ Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports a tobacco-free environment in all public facilities. 02-05

*Public Health/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the following: Special preventive and therapeutic care for persons who are developmentally, physically, mentally or medically compromised; Promotion of public and professional awareness of the need for interdisciplinary care; The encouragement of public funding, where appropriate and third-party payment for such services. 02-86

*Public Health/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates systematic collection of data by dental hygienists to aid in the identification of children and adults. 03-05

*Public Health/Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports and encourages the combined use of pit and fissure sealants and fluorides in all private dental practices and public oral health programs; and that CDHA supports the inclusion of pit and fissure sealants as a covered preventive service in private dental insurance programs and public oral health programs. 29-85

*Public Health/Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc endorses early assessment, education, and preventive intervention for infants and children beginning at age one or within six months of initial tooth eruption. 01-02

*Public Health/Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support community water fluoridation as a safe and effective method for reducing the incidence of dental caries throughout the human lifespan. 2-76/05-04 03-15

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports education regarding the safety, cost effectiveness, preventive and therapeutic benefits of community water fluoridation. 04-15

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports education regarding the benefits of all preventive and therapeutic fluorides. 05-15

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., supports public awareness by requiring the labeling of products and their packaging that contain allergens including latex, which could have adverse effects on health. Furthermore, CDHA supports removing products containing latex from healthcare and food establishments. 14-15

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recommends the use of mouth and head protection for participants during sports activities where there is a risk of dental and/or craniofacial injuries. 06-04

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports limiting vending machine food and beverages sold in schools to nutritious food and beverages. 12-05

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., advocates the expansion of package labeling to include the adverse effects of food and beverages with pH levels of 5.5 or less on tooth structures. 15-09

***Public Health/Prevention***

**The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the education, training and utilization of dental hygienists in the procedure of vaccine administration to advance the**

**effort of protecting and preserving public health.**

**04-23**

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates continuing review of the design and administration of the oral health component of health programs. This review shall include the following:

Utilization of licensed oral health care professionals.

Program utilization by the consumer,

Effect of benefits,

Access to oral health care,

Utilization of all preventive measures,

Trends in oral health and oral health delivery,

Provision of uniform procedures and forms,

Economy in administration,

Efficiency of administrative requirements,

Effectiveness of review and procedures,

Effectiveness in meeting the oral health needs of the population.

05-93

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the need for increased expenditures in programs designed to provide health services to sectors of the population to which such services have not been available or have been available in insufficient quantity.

Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. further believes that, in order to obtain maximum benefit from the expenditure of health dollars, greater emphasis should be placed upon the support of health programs which are preventative in nature.

08-93

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the utilization of services of dental hygienists in community health programming.

16-95

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorse the implementation of preventive dental service programs within the scope of dental hygiene practice, in public health settings, as defined by PA 97-239, by dental hygienists without the supervision of dentists.

Such programs may be voluntary, non-profit or profit-making in nature.

08-97

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the development of community-based comprehensive oral health programs.

02-98

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the strengthening and expansion of school-based oral health programs designed and administered by actively licensed dental hygienists.

08-99

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the adoption by the Connecticut Department of Public Health of a standardized methods of collecting, recording and reporting oral health data from public health programs. 03-02

*Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports nutritional guidelines and programs that promote total health and encourages accurate media advertising and public education that promote healthy eating habits and wellness. 03-94

*Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports recognized professional and consumer groups in their efforts to ban misleading advertising and unsubstantiated claims connected with oral health care products. 15-95

*Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports educating the public and other health professionals regarding health risks of intra and extra oral piercing and non-therapeutic oral modification, as well as supporting licensure and regulation of body-piercing establishments. 02-07

*Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates arrangements between school districts and vendors to promote the consumption of healthy foods and beverages. 03-12

**REGULATION**

*Regulation/Credentialing*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports licensure by credentials for dental hygienists graduated from a program in dental hygiene which has a minimum of two academic years curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education, whose credentials have been individually reviewed by a State Board of Dentistry, or State Board of Dental Hygiene and have fulfilled the criteria for documentation of professional competency. 14-90

*Regulation/Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support recognition of a national board dental hygiene examination, which tests the sciences of dental hygiene and biological and oral medicines acquired through the completion of a dental hygiene program which has a minimum of two academic years of curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education, by licensing authorities for which each legal jurisdiction in lieu of written examination by each authority, except where additional examinations are necessary to test for dental hygiene procedures not addressed by a national board dental hygiene examination. 05-91



*Regulation/Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that the clinical exam for dental hygiene licensure be conducted and evaluated by licensed dental hygienists. 01-92

*Regulation /Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, supports elimination of the patient procedure-based, single encounter clinical examination for candidates who are graduates of Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental hygiene programs and who are eligible to take the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination. 02-18

*Regulation/ Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports a national dental hygiene examination for licensure that is a valid, reliable and cost-effective assessment of clinical skills. 04-05

*Regulation/Licensure*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the establishment of written regulations for dental hygienists practicing in the State of Connecticut. 28-85

*Regulations/Licensure*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the Department of Public Health utilizing formal mechanisms to facilitate the licensing process for currently licensed dental hygienists who relocate from one jurisdiction to another. The mechanisms must require the individual to be a graduate of a dental hygiene program which has a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education. 07-06

*Regulation/Licensure*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports national reciprocity of licensure, by credentials for currently licensed dental hygienists. 11-05

*Regulation/Self-Regulation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports self-regulation of dental hygiene. 02-92

*Regulation /Supervision*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses the concept that dental supervision of the client's comprehensive oral health care is more important to the public interest than supervision of the dental hygienist. By virtue of graduation, licensure and a defined scope of practice, the dental hygienist is responsible for the client's preventative oral health care and capable of providing dental hygiene services without supervision. The dental hygiene educational program must have a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education. 11-90

## **RESEARCH**

### *Research/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates research to quantifiably assess the potential for transmission of HIV during the delivery of professional oral health services.

08-91

### *Research/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates research designed to provide the scientific basis for broadening the scope of dental hygiene practice.

07-92

### *Research/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the basic science and applied research in the investigation of health promotion/disease prevention and theoretical frameworks, which form the basis of education and practice.

08-95

### *Research/Patient Centered Outcome Research*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates outcome research that is patient centered and focused on both preventive and oral health interventions that lead to improved health outcomes, quality care and increased patient care satisfaction in all practice settings.

06-16

### *Research/Guidelines for Controlled Substances*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the need for further research and the development of clinical guidelines for the management of patients, their caregivers and the dental team who are under the influence of controlled substances and recreational drugs.

02-22

**ADDENDUM**  
**Chronological Order of HOD Policies**

**1976 - 1985**

*Education/Competence*

The knowledge of processing dental insurance should be considered essential within the realm of the profession of dental hygiene, and that CDHA endorses the necessity for educational courses for CDHA members and student members of ADHA to learn about dental insurance and form processing. **03-76**

*Public Health/Access to Care/PH Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support and actively pursue legislation that will mandate the provision of preventive dental care programs in Connecticut schools, and further, that such services be provided under direction of a registered dental hygienist. **09-83**

*Practice/Setting*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support a campaign with the goal of having at least one (1) dental hygienist in every practice setting in the State. **10-83**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. believes that dental hygienists should be involved in measuring and recording blood pressures on patients as part of conducting a thorough health history. **02-84**

*Regulation/Licensure*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the establishment of written regulations for dental hygienists practicing in the State of Connecticut. **28-85**

*Public Health/Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports and encourages the combined use of pit and fissure sealants and fluorides in all private dental practices and public oral health programs; and that CDHA supports the inclusion of pit and fissure sealants as a covered preventive service in private dental insurance programs and public oral health programs. **29-85**

**1986 - 1990**

*Public Health/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the following: Special preventive and therapeutic care for persons who are developmentally, physically, mentally or medically compromised; Promotion of public and professional awareness of the need for interdisciplinary care; The encouragement of public funding, where appropriate and third-party payment for such services. **02-86**

*Ethics/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the inclusion on nondiscriminatory clauses in all contracts awarded by federal agencies and private foundations.

**07-86**

*Public Health/Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the addition of written warning labels on smokeless tobacco products as well as education about the hazards of the products.

**22-86**

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports all aspects of formal dental hygiene education which includes certificate, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs; however, CDHA supports ADHA's intent to establish the baccalaureate degree as the minimum entry level for dental hygiene practice in the future and to develop the theoretical base for dental hygiene practice.

**03-87**

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. believes that in order to be most effective in the delivery of primary preventive dental care to all people, services of the dental hygienist should be fully utilized in all public and private practice settings.

**04-87**

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the importance of comprehensive oral health services in the design of health care programs for special needs patients.

**05-87**

*Public Health/Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. encourages dental hygienists to support education, information, and referral regarding substance misuse and addiction.

**18-87**

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the elimination of barriers restricting the practice of dental hygiene by licensed dental hygienists.

**19-87**

*Membership/Dues*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. Life, Retired/Senior and Honorary members be exempted from paying CDHA dues.

**04-88**

*Education/Competence*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the operation of extraoral and intraoral imaging devices only by qualified individuals who have successfully completed approved courses that meet state and/or federal regulations for radiation safety.

**08-88**

*Practice/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. believes that dental hygienists are ethically and morally responsible to provide dental hygiene care to all patients including those who may

have or have been exposed to infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis B, utilizing nationally accepted infection control and barrier techniques. **11-88**

#### *Education/Faculty/Administrators*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. encourages all dental hygiene faculty to be members of their professional dental hygiene organization. **13-88**

#### *Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the Baccalaureate Degree in Dental Hygiene Program:

1. Programs offering a baccalaureate degree should provide an education consistent with standards in higher education. The baccalaureate curriculum should be conducted at a level which allows for admission to university graduate programs. The curriculum should incorporate a substantive body of knowledge in the social, behavioral and biological sciences as prerequisites for entrance into advanced disciplines.
2. Baccalaureate programs conferring the Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene should provide advanced knowledge and skill in dental hygiene. These curricula should prepare graduates for expanding roles in the delivery of oral health services. These services shall be determined by projected dental health needs, potential for the dental hygienist to provide services to meet these needs and the ability of the dental hygiene program to provide instruction in these areas.
3. The curricula should allow for integration of all liberal arts, biomedical sciences, oral health sciences and dental hygiene science content and shall provide a theoretical framework for all aspects of dental hygiene practice.
4. Baccalaureate degree programs are encouraged to develop four-year dental integrated hygiene curricula. **17-88**

#### *Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes Master's Degree Dental Hygiene Program:

1. Master's degree programs in dental hygiene should be at an education level equivalent to master's degree programs in other disciplines and allow further pursuit of advance degrees.
2. Curricula should be designed to provide dental hygienists with advance concepts in social, behavioral and biological sciences and dental hygiene practice. It should provide dental hygienists with the skills necessary to contribute to the expansion of the dental hygiene body of knowledge through research. **18-88**

#### *Membership/Rights*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. voting members shall be entitled to:  
A membership certificate issued annually by ADHA. The right to vote on all matters requiring a vote by members of THE CONNECTICUT DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC. or the Component to which the member belongs. Eligibility for election as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to ADHA and the CDHA House of Delegates and eligibility for election or appointment to any office, committee Board of Trustees, or similar position in ADHA, CDHA or Component, if qualified. Subscription to any official publication of CDHA. Admission to any general meeting of CDHA. Such other Rights as the Board of Trustees or House of Delegates may from time to time determine. **20-88**

### *Membership/Rights*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. non-voting members shall be entitled to:  
A membership certificate issued to honorary and allied members only by CDHA.

Subscription to any official publication of CDHA.

Admission to any general meeting of CDHA.

Such other Rights as the Board of Trustees or House of Delegates may from time to time determine. **21-88**

### *Membership/Retired Benefits*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. retired members receive CDHA publications as a benefit of retired membership status. **22-88**

### *Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. opposes any reduction of education standards and/or requirements for initial licensure of dental hygienists. **03-89**

### *Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports programs that inform health care providers and consumers of the scope of dental hygiene practice as it benefits total health care and health care delivery system. **07-89**

### *Education/Career Recruitment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the recruitment of individuals who have received training in the technical procedures associated with dental hygiene to enroll in dental hygiene programs which have a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education. **08-90**

### *Regulation /Supervision*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses the concept that dental supervision of the client's comprehensive oral health care is more important to the public interest than supervision of the dental hygienist. By virtue of graduation, licensure and a defined scope of practice, the dental hygienist is responsible for the client's preventative oral health care and capable of providing dental hygiene services without supervision. The dental hygiene educational program must have a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education. **11-90**

Dental Hygienist Defined: That The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes that dental hygiene is the health profession, which, in cooperation with other health professions, provides services to promote optimal oral health for the public. The licensed dental hygienist performs and/or supervises the delivery of oral health care services as regulated under state dental and/or dental hygiene practice acts. Graduation from a program which has a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution

of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education and a didactic examination is a required prerequisite for licensure and practice. Dental hygienists practice in health-oriented settings such as: general or specialty private practice, community health agencies, dental and dental auxiliary schools, public schools, hospitals, biomedical research facilities, government agencies, industry, public and private health centers. Within these settings the dental hygienist may serve as clinician, health promoter/educator, consumer advocate, administrator/manager, change agent and researcher. **12-90**

*Ethics/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the dental hygienist as an educated professional who has graduated from a dental hygiene program which has a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education and whose qualifications are confirmed by a didactic licensing examination. Therefore, the dental hygienist, duly licensed by the State in which he/she practices and subject to the disciplinary actions of the regulatory board is responsible for the quality of dental hygiene services he/she rendered. **13-90**

*Regulation/Credentialing*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports licensure by credentials for dental hygienists graduated from a program in dental hygiene which has a minimum of two academic years curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education, whose credentials have been individually reviewed by a State Board of Dentistry, or State Board of Dental Hygiene and have fulfilled the criteria for documentation of professional competency. **14-90**

**1991 - 1995**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the concept that a licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from a dental hygiene program which has a minimum of two academic years of curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education, may own a dental hygiene practice, or enter into a contractual arrangement to provide dental hygiene services in accordance with state dental and/or dental hygiene practice acts. **02-91**

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports access to comprehensive health care including oral health care for all people. **03-91**

*Regulation/Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support recognition of a national board dental hygiene examination, which tests the sciences of dental hygiene and biological and oral medicines acquired through the completion of a dental hygiene program which has a minimum

of two academic years of curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education, by licensing authorities for which each legal jurisdiction in lieu of written examination by each authority, except where additional examinations are necessary to test for dental hygiene procedures not addressed by a national board dental hygiene examination. **05-91**

*Education/Career Recruitment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygienists be the primary professional to develop, coordinate, and evaluate dental hygiene career recruitment programs that include entry, retention, and re-entry into the dental hygiene profession. **07-91**

*Research/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates research to quantifiably assess the potential for transmission of HIV during the delivery of professional oral health services. **08-91**

*Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygiene practice is an integral component of the health care delivery system and that the services provided by a dental hygienist may be performed in cooperation with other health care professionals within the overall health care needs of the patient. **9-91**

*Regulation/Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that the clinical exam for dental hygiene licensure be conducted and evaluated by licensed dental hygienists. **01-92**

*Regulation/Self-Regulation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports self-regulation of dental hygiene. **02-92**

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the initiation of new dental hygiene educational programs if:

- ~there is a qualified applicant pool.
- ~the program offers an integrated curriculum that culminates in a baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene.
- ~the program has financial resources to initiate and maintain dental hygienists' education standards.
- ~the program is supported by the Component and Constituent dental hygiene associations.
- ~the program meets the appropriate accreditation requirements prior to acceptance of students.

**03-92**

*Ethics/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygienists, as health care professionals, are responsible for reporting suspected abuse and/or neglect of any dependent individual to the proper authorities. **04-92**



*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. opposes mandatory HIV testing. **05-92**

*Research/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates research designed to provide the scientific basis for broadening the scope of dental hygiene practice. **07-92**

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that any national health insurance program include benefits for preventive and therapeutic oral health care. **10-92**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that the scope of dental hygiene practice includes utilization of appropriate and effective pain management. **13-92**

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorse private and/or public funding to subsidize dental hygiene education in dental hygiene programs that are licensed by the State of Connecticut and are accredited and recognized by the Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation. **20-92**

*Professional Development/ Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the acceptance of continuing education courses in the dental hygiene process: assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation. **04-93**

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates continuing review of the design and administration of the oral health component of health programs. This review shall include the following:

Utilization of licensed oral health care professionals.

Program utilization by the consumer,

Effect of benefits,

Access to oral health care,

Utilization of all preventive measures,

Trends in oral health and oral health delivery,

Provision of uniform procedures and forms,

Economy in administration,

Efficiency of administrative requirements,

Effectiveness of review and procedures,

Effectiveness in meeting the oral health needs of the population. **05-93**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. adopts the following dental hygiene discipline statement and the paradigm concept: the discipline of dental hygiene is the art and science of preventive oral health care including the management of behaviors that promote health and prevent disease. Preventive oral health care includes:

1. The coordination and delivery of primary preventive oral health educational and clinical services,
2. The provision of secondary preventive intervention to prevent further disease and to promote overall health, and
3. The facilitation of the client's access to care and implementation of mutually agreed-upon oral health care goals.

These methods of preventing oral disease and promoting wellness are provided by the dental hygienist in collaboration with the health care team in a variety of settings to all populations -- those served, those under-served and those outside the oral health care system. Within the domain of dental hygiene the main concepts studied are the client, the environment in which the client and dental hygienist find themselves, the promotion of health/oral health, and the dental hygiene actions, which lead the client to oral health and wellness. **07-93**

#### *Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the need for increased expenditures in programs designed to provide health services to sectors of the population to which such services have not been available or have been available in insufficient quantity. Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. further believes that, in order to obtain maximum benefit from the expenditure of health dollars, greater emphasis should be placed upon the support of health programs which are preventative in nature. **08-93**

#### *Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. affirms that its fundamental commitment to optimal oral health for all people and its willingness to cooperate closely and actively with all agencies and individuals who share this commitment. **10-93**

#### *Practice/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses that no individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, age, sex, sexual preference, cultural heritage, socioeconomic status or disability and shall have full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages including, but not limited to, access of care, education, and employment opportunities. **13-93**

#### *Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports nutritional guidelines and programs that promote total health and encourages accurate media advertising and public education that promote healthy eating habits and wellness. **03-94**

Dental Public Health: The art and science of preventing and controlling dental disease and promoting dental health through organized community efforts. It is the form of dental practice which serves the community as a patient rather than the individual. It is concerned with the dental health education of the public, with research and the application of findings from research, with the administration of programs of dental care for groups, and with the prevention and control of disease through a community approach. **01-95**

Public Health Dental Hygiene Discipline Statement and Paradigm Concept: The discipline of public dental hygiene is that form of dental hygiene practice, which serves the community as a

client/patient rather than the individual. It is concerned with the dental health education of the public, with research and the application of findings from research, with the administration of programs of dental care for groups, and with the prevention and control of disease through a community approach. It involves the assessment; planning, organization, delivery, and evaluation of dental programs in concert with community members and other public health care providers. Public health dental hygienists may serve their communities as direct providers of preventive services, dental health educators, program planners, administrators, researchers, patient advocates and policy developers. **02-95**

*Public Health/Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. opposes the use, marketing and distribution of tobacco products and promotional look-alike products. To this cause, CDHA supports the legislation which prohibits the sale of tobacco products to minors. CDHA also supports the prevention and cessation of tobacco usage through written warning labels on all tobacco products and public education regarding the harmful aspects of tobacco on oral/total health. **06-95**

*Research/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the basic science and applied research in the investigation of health promotion/disease prevention and theoretical frameworks, which form the basis of education and practice. **08-95**

*Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports recognized professional and consumer groups in their efforts to ban misleading advertising and unsubstantiated claims connected with oral health care products. **15-95**

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the utilization of services of dental hygienists in community health programming. **16-95**

**1996 - 2000**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports compliance with all the current standard of care for antibiotic prophylaxis recommended by the American Heart Association and/or client's physician of record. **06-96**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses the monitoring of nitrous oxide analgesia by registered dental hygienists provided that the registered dental hygienist completes a certified course. **07-96**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses and acknowledges the value of placing time released antibiotics/therapeutic materials subgingivally by dental hygienists. **11-96**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. designate polishing of enamel to be a selective procedure and not a routine part of an oral prophylaxis, and that the decision to polish a patient's/client tooth should be based on a dental hygienist's assessment of patient/client needs.

**07-97**

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorse the implementation of preventive dental service programs within the scope of dental hygiene practice, in public health settings, as defined by PA 97-239, by dental hygienists without the supervision of dentists. Such programs may be voluntary, non-profit or profit-making in nature.

**08-97**

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognize and advise Managed Care Organizations that respond to the opportunity to increase access to the benefits of preventative and therapeutic procedures provided by RDH's. The Managed Care Organizations must provide for the delivery of care consistent with the American Dental Hygienists' Association /Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association Code of Ethics and follow current dental models of care.

**09-97**

Dental Hygiene Process:

- Assessment: The systemic collection and analysis of data in order to identify client needs.
- Diagnosis: The identification of client strengths and oral hygiene problems dental hygiene interventions can improve.
- Planning: The establishment of realistic goals and the selection of dental hygiene interventions that move the client closer to optimal oral health.
- Implementation: The act of carrying out the dental hygiene plan of care.
- Evaluation: The measurement of the extent to which the client has achieved the goals specified in the dental hygiene care plan. The dental hygienist uses evidence-based decisions to continue, discontinue, or modify the care plan based on the ongoing reassessments and subsequent diagnoses.
- \*In the Dental Hygiene Process, client may refer to individuals, families, groups, or communities as defined in the American Dental Hygienists' Association Framework for theory Development.

**10-97**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the development and utilization of emerging technologies that maximize human health and safety.

**12-97**

*Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the development of community-based comprehensive oral health programs.

**02-98**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates current certification in basic life support for the professional rescuer (American Red Cross) or the healthcare provider (American

Heart Association) and automated external defibrillation course completion for dental hygienists. **02-99**

Optimal Oral Health: A standard of health of the oral and related tissues which enables an individual to eat, speak, and socialize without active disease, discomfort or embarrassment, and which contributes to general well-being and overall total health. **03-99**

Position Paper: A written document that summarizes the organization's viewpoint on a specific topic, which includes supporting research and is approved by the House of Delegates. The purpose is to communicate to members and external audiences. **04-99**

#### *Education/Faculty/Administrators*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that dental hygiene educational programs be administered or directed only by educationally qualified actively licensed dental hygienists. Directors who do not have a Connecticut license should obtain said license within 18 months. **05-99**

#### *Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the strengthening and expansion of school-based oral health programs designed and administered by actively licensed dental hygienists. **08-99**

Accreditation: A formal, voluntary non-governmental process that establishes a minimum set of national standards which promote and assure quality in educational institutions and their programs and serves as a mechanism to protect the public. **01-00**

Accredited Dental Hygiene Program: A dental hygiene program that achieves or exceeds the established minimum standard set by a United States Department of Education (USDOE)-recognized regional accrediting agency and the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The curriculum shall be at the appropriate level to enable matriculation into a baccalaureate, masters or doctoral degree program. The entry-level dental hygiene education program shall:

- Award a minimum of an associate level degree, the credits of which are transferable to a 4-year institution and applicable toward a baccalaureate.
- Retain control of curricular and clinical components.
- Include at least two academic years of full time instruction or its equivalent in academic credits earned at the post-secondary college level.
- Encompass both liberal arts and dental hygiene science course work sufficient to prepare the practitioner to assume licensure in any jurisdiction. **02-00**

#### *Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's standards to assure safe and healthful working conditions for dental health care workers (including but not limited to blood borne pathogens, hazard communications, workplace violence prevention, ergonomics, noise protection, radiation safety, etc.). **10-00**

## **2001 - 2005**

### *Practice/Discrimination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. **04-01**

### *Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates amendment of state practice acts to allow dental hygienists who are graduates of accredited dental hygiene programs to utilize any evidence based treatment modality or device in providing oral health services. **08-01**

### *Public Health/Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc endorses early assessment, education, and preventive intervention for infants and children beginning at age one or within six months of initial tooth eruption. **01-02**

### *Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. encourages its members to actively participate in community oral health consortium, collaborative, and advisory groups. **02-02**

### *Public Health/Public Health Programs*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the adoption by the Connecticut Department of Public Health of standardized methods of collecting, recording and reporting oral health data from public health programs. **03-02**

### *Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports legislative change to the Connecticut Dental Hygiene Practice Act to include dental hygiene diagnosis. **04-03**

### *Public Health/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates loan forgiveness programs for licensed dental hygienists who provide dental hygiene services to underserved sectors of the population in public health settings. **06-03**

### *Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the inclusion and utilization of dental hygienists in response to events of bio-terrorism and catastrophe. **07-03**

### *Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports legislation granting immunity to dental hygienists when responding to any disaster or emergency situation, so declared by appropriate authority. **08-03**

### *Practice/Provider Safety*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommendations for vaccinations, evaluations, and follow-up procedures of (DHCP) Dental Health Care Providers. THE CONNECTICUT DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC. strongly advocates CDC recommendation for DHCP to be

vaccinated or have documented immunity to diseases that have been identified as substantial risk for acquiring or transmitting **01-04**

Advanced dental hygiene practitioner: A registered dental hygienist, who has completed an advanced educational curriculum approved by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, which prepares the registered dental hygienist to provide diagnostic, preventive, restorative and therapeutic services directly to the public. **02-04**

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports development of a standardized educational curriculum by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, for the advanced dental hygiene practitioner. **04-04**

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recommends the use of mouth and head protection for participants during sports activities where there is a risk of dental and/or craniofacial injuries. **06-04**

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates evidence-based oral health management strategies for the prevention of oral and systemic diseases. **01-05**

*Public Health/ Addiction*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports a tobacco-free environment in all public facilities. **02-05**

*Public Health/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates systematic collection of data by dental hygienists to aid in the identification of children and adults. **03-05**

*Regulation/ Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports a national dental hygiene examination for licensure that is a valid, reliable and cost-effective assessment of clinical skills. **04-05**

Dental Triage: The screening of clients to determine priority of treatment needs. **05-05**

*Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates collaborative continuing education efforts with other health disciplines to promote optimal total health. **07-05**

*Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports accreditation standards that prepare entry-level dental hygienists to assume all the professional roles of the dental hygienist in a variety of settings to meet the preventive and therapeutic health care needs of the public. **09-05**

*Professional Development/ Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates that licensing agencies accept higher education credits pertaining to any of the professional roles of the dental hygienist for continuing education credit. **10-05**

*Regulation/Licensure*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports national reciprocity of licensure, by credentials for currently licensed dental hygienists. **11-05**

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports limiting vending machine food and beverages sold in schools to nutritious food and beverages. **12-05**

*Ethics/Scope of Practice*

A complaint against a hygienist be accepted by the CDHA Board of Trustees and guarantee anonymity from the Department of Public Health, if applicable. **16-05**

*Professional Development/ Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association recommends amending the continuing education regulations of the State of Connecticut with the following:

**CE Credits**

Increase required Continuing Education credits per monitoring period to 24 credit hours.

**Provider definitions**

Expand the number of provider definitions to include additional organizations and institutions.

**Self- Study**

To define and allow self-study instruction. "Self study instruction" means instruction which an individual is instructed through on-line coursework, refereed or peer reviewed journals offered or sponsored by a qualifying provider for continuing education activity.

**Content area for continuing education**

Expand content areas for continuing education credit.

**Awards of credit hours**

Recommend 1 credit hour per day for attendance at a multi-day convention type meeting at the state, regional or national level.

Recommend 24 credit hours for full time post-dental hygiene graduate enrollment in an advanced educational program.

Recommend 2 credit hours for part time post-dental hygiene graduate enrollment in an advanced educational program per 1 (one) college credit hour.

Recommend 1 credit hour, up to a maximum of 10 contact hours in a 24-month period, for 8 hours of volunteer dental hygiene practice at a public health facility. **17-05**

*Public Health/ Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorse a mandatory dental exam by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist, with referral for appropriate follow-up care, upon entry into kindergarten, sixth and tenth grades or new entrance into a district. **20-05**



*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses the addition of a dental hygiene examination code to the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature. **21-05**

**2006-2010**

*Ethics/Career Recruitment*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports increasing diversity within the profession of dental hygiene. **02-06**

*Practice/Access to Care*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. endorses a mandatory comprehensive oral examination by a licensed dental hygienist or dentist, with referral for appropriate follow up care upon entry into primary, middle and secondary schools or entry into a new school or school district. **03-06**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports dental hygienists, as primary care providers to receive direct reimbursement from third party payers for covered services that are legally within the scope of the dental hygiene practice. **06-06**

*Regulations/Licensure*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the Department of Public Health utilizing formal mechanisms to facilitate the licensing process for currently licensed dental hygienists who relocate from one jurisdiction to another. The mechanisms must require the individual to be a graduate of a dental hygiene program which has a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum provided in a college or institution of higher education, the program of which is accredited by a national agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and/or the United States Department of Education. **07-06**

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports an increase in the rate of Medicaid/HUSKY reimbursement fees with an annual cost of living increase for dental services provided to patients under the age of 21. **09-06**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the utilization of licensed dental hygienists as dental care coordinators. **10-06**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the licensed dental hygiene scope of practice to include dental hygiene diagnosis, dental triage, taking impressions for preventive and therapeutic devices, doing chairside adjustments of devices and placing temporary restorations. **11-06**

*Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports educating the public and other health professionals regarding health risks of intra and extra oral piercing and non-therapeutic oral modification, as well as supporting licensure and regulation of body-piercing establishments.

**02-07**

*Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. promotes education of dental and medical personnel on the paradigm of a dental home by one.

**02-08**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. promote legislation for certification for the use of LASER therapy by registered dental hygienists.

**04-08**

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. promotes the education of all health care providers and consumers on the importance of utilizing an identification system for all removable appliances and prostheses.

**05-08**

*Practice/Setting*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports expanding the public health practice settings for the dental hygienist.

**07-08**

White Paper: An authoritative report or guide that provides information about emerging knowledge and issues on a specific topic.

**03-09**

Fact Sheet: A document that summarizes key points of information for distribution. **04-09**

Dental Home: A relationship between a person and a specific team of health professionals, led by a licensed dental provider. The dental home is an ongoing partnership that coordinates comprehensive, accessible and culturally sensitive care through the delivery of oral health services as part of integrated health care.

**05-09**

*Public Health/Access to Care/Workforce Models*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports oral health care workforce models that culminate in: Graduation from an accredited institution; Professional licensure; Direct access to patient care.

**06-09**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association Inc., advocates that the dental hygiene diagnosis is a necessary and intrinsic element of dental hygiene education and scope of practice.

**07-09**

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports comprehensive oral health programs and services that reach at risk populations.

**10-09**

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association Inc. advocates that any health insurance program include benefits for preventive, restorative and therapeutic oral health care. **11-09**

*Public Health/ Access to care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., supports expanding access to preventive, restorative and therapeutic care within the dental hygiene scope of practice. **12-09**

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., advocates the expansion of package labeling to include the adverse effects of food and beverages with pH levels of 5.5 or less on tooth structures. **15-09**

Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner: A licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene program and who provides primary oral health care directly to patients to promote and restore oral health through assessment, diagnosis, treatment, documentation, evaluation and referral services. The Mid-level Oral Health Practitioner has met the educational requirements to provide services within an expanded scope of care, and practices under regulations set forth by the appropriate licensing agency. **04-10**

Interdisciplinary Care: Two or more healthcare providers working within their respective disciplines who collaborate with the patient and /or caregiver to develop and implement a care plan. **05-10**

Professional Autonomy: A profession's authority and responsibility for its own standards of education, regulation, practice, licensing, and discipline. **06-10**

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports comprehensive risk-based assessment of the patient's needs prior to and throughout the delivery of oral health services. **07-10**

*Practice/Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the use of current/safe diagnostic technology (including radiation) techniques. **09-10**

**2011 - 2015**

Dental Public Health Setting: Any setting where population-based, community-focused oral health interventions can be used and evaluated as a means to prevent or control disease. **02-11**

At-Risk Population: A community or group of people whose social or physical determinants, environmental factors, or personal behaviors increase their probability of developing disease. **03-11**

Collaborative Practice: An agreement that authorizes the dental hygienist to establish a cooperative working relationship with another health care provider in the provision of patient care. Collaborative practice includes the discussion of patient diagnosis and cooperation in the management and delivery of oral health care. **05-11**

### *Membership/Diversity*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. is an inclusive organization. We value differences within our membership and we recognize that diversity adds value to our organization, our mission and the quality of programs and services. **06-11**

### *Membership/Branding*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports using the brand which is consistent with the current brand ADHA Connecticut. **08-11**

### *Public Health/Wellness*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates arrangements between school districts and vendors to promote the consumption of healthy foods and beverages. **03-12**

### *Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., advocate continued competence, lifelong learning and ongoing professional development for dental hygienists, which includes the dental hygiene process of care: assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation and documentation. **05-12**

### *Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates accreditation by the dental hygiene profession of all entry level, degree completion, and graduate dental hygiene programs. **03-01/09-12**

Advanced Practice Dental Hygiene: Clinical and diagnostic services provided in addition to those services permitted to an entry-level dental hygienist, including services that require a higher level of clinical decision-making, judgment, and problem solving.

Completion of clinical and academic educational program beyond the first professional degree required for entry level licensure which qualifies the dental hygienist to provide advanced practice services in direct access settings and collaborative relationships.

Documentation of proficiency such as professional certification. **08-13**

Self-Regulation: Regulation of dental hygiene practice by registered dental hygienists who are graduates of an accredited dental hygiene program, who define the scope of practice, set educational requirements and licensure standards, and regulate and discipline dental hygienists. **05-01/09-13**

Dental Hygiene Diagnosis: The identification of an individual's health status, behaviors, attitudes, and oral health care needs by a dental hygienist, who is educationally qualified and licensed to provide. The dental hygiene diagnosis requires evidence-based critical analysis and interpretation of assessments in order to reach conclusions about the patient's dental hygiene treatment needs. The dental hygiene diagnosis provides the basis for the dental hygiene care plan. **02-14**

Needs Assessment: A systematic process used to establish priorities for future action using the dental hygiene process of care. **03-14**

Primary Dental Hygiene Care Provider: The dental hygienist is a primary care oral health professional who administers a range of services which are defined by the scope, characteristics and integration of care.

Scope of Primary Care:

Consists of the assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation and documentation of procedures for promoting the highest level of health possible to the patient.

Characteristics of Primary Care:

First contact for care is initiated by the patient or other person who assumes responsibility for the patient and takes place in a variety of practice settings.

Integration of Primary Care:

Providers serve as the entry and control point linking the patient to total health care systems by providing coordination with other specialized health or social services to ensure that the patient receives comprehensive and continuous care at a single point in time, as well as over a period of time.

The American Dental Hygienists' Association identifies a primary care provider of services as any person who by virtue of dental hygiene licensure, graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program, and a defined scope of practice, provides one or more of these services defined under the scope of primary care. **09-90/05-14**

Essential Community Provider: A health provider who serves populations with inadequate access to care. **06-14**

Practice: The continuing competence, lifelong learning and ongoing professional development for dental hygienists. **08-14**

*Practice/Third Party Payment*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the inclusion of dental hygienists as primary care providers having representation with the decision-making body(s) in order to provide dental hygienists' input when third party policy payment reimbursement and procedure definitions are formulated. Furthermore, that this representation be able to give input for the establishment of procedure codes that allow reimbursement for dental hygienists for the allowable procedure as established by state statutes. **10-14**

Continued Competency: The ongoing application of knowledge, judgment, attitudes, and abilities in a manner consistent with the contemporary standards of the profession, to maintain skills essential to perform dental hygiene functions effectively. **01-15**

*Public Health/Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support community water fluoridation as a safe and effective method for reducing the incidence of dental caries throughout the human lifespan. **2-76/05-04 03-15**

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports education regarding the safety, cost effectiveness, preventive and therapeutic benefits of community water fluoridation. **04-15**

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports education regarding the benefits of all preventive and therapeutic fluorides. **05-15**

Direct Access: The ability of a dental hygienist to initiate treatment based on their assessment of a patient's needs without the specific authorization of a dentist, treat the patient without the presence of a dentist, and maintain a provider-patient relationship. **07-15**

*Practice/Career Recruitment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the ability and right of all people to obtain the services of a dental hygienist without restrictions. **08-15**

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. support dental hygiene curricula that leads to competency in the dental hygiene process of care: assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation. **06-93/10-15**

*Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. advocates the role of dental hygienists in research, including their contributions to interdisciplinary studies and practice. **12-15**

*Public Health/ Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc., supports public awareness by requiring the labeling of products and their packaging that contain allergens including latex, which could have adverse effects on health. Furthermore, CDHA supports removing products containing latex from healthcare and food establishments. **14-15**

*Professional Development/Continuing Education*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. supports the inclusion of one hour of Continuing Education Credit in Cultural Competency within continuing education requirements for all dental hygienists. **15-15**

**2016 - 2020**

Documentation: The complete and accurate recording of all collected data, treatment planned and provided, recommendations, referrals, prescriptions, patient/client comments and related communication, treatment outcomes and patient satisfaction and other information relevant to patient care and treatment. **03-10 / 02-16**

Interprofessional Education: When students and/or professionals from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other, to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. **3-16**

*Education/Interprofessional Education*

That the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for the integration of interprofessional education into the dental hygiene curriculum. **04-16**

Health Equity: Attainment of the highest level of health for all people and the elimination of health disparities. **05-16**

*Research/Patient Centered Outcome Research*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates outcome research that is patient centered and focused on both preventive and oral health interventions that lead to improved health outcomes, quality care and increased patient care satisfaction in all practice settings.

**06-16**

Evidence-based: Concepts or strategies that are derived from or informed by the best available scientific literature and a focused review of the most current research on the topic of interest.

**07-16**

Telehealth: The use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health related education, public health and health administration. Technologies include, but are not limited to, videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.

**03-17**

*Practice/Patient Services*The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for diagnostic codes, procedure codes, nomenclature and descriptors that are consistent with scientific literature regarding evidence-based practices in dentistry and dental hygiene.

**05-17**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for a comprehensive oral assessment and evaluation by a dental hygienist or a dental therapist, with referral for appropriate follow up care, for students entering into primary, middle, and secondary education.

**06-17**

Dental Hygiene Actions: cognitive, affective and psychomotor performances that include assessing, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementing, evaluating, and documenting (dental hygiene process of care) of preventive and therapeutic oral health care. They are provided in independent, interdependent and collaborative relationships with the client and health care team members.

**13-15 / 7-17**

*Regulation /Examination*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, supports elimination of the patient procedure-based, single encounter clinical examination for candidates who are graduates of Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental hygiene programs and who are eligible to take the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination.

**02-18**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, supports the dental hygienists' ability to prescribe, administer and dispense all evidence-based preventive and therapeutic fluorides.

**03-18**

Interprofessional: A concept which describes the collaboration of two or more professions in the delivery of health care which may contribute to improved individual and public health outcomes.

**04-18**

*Public Health/Older Adults*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for legislation, policies, programs and research to foster optimal oral health for older adults.

**06-18**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for a comprehensive oral assessment and evaluation by a licensed dental hygienist or a midlevel oral health practitioner, with referral for appropriate oral health care, for older adults entering into or utilizing a long-term care facility or a public health setting.

**07-18**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, supports the expansion of scope for dental hygienists to administer and monitor nitrous oxide.

**08-18**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the practice of local anesthesia under general supervision.

**09-18**

Dental Therapist: A licensed dental hygienist who has graduated from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) approved dental therapy program and who provides primary oral health care directly to patients/clients to promote and restore oral health through assessment, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation and referral services.

**02-19**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the practice of the licensed dental hygienist who is certified as a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) approved dental therapist.

**03-19**

Oral Prophylaxis: The supra -and subgingival removal of biofilm, calculus and extrinsic stains from tooth and prosthetic structures, to preserve health and prevent disease.

**08-19**

*Education/Accreditation*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports all aspects of formal dental hygiene education from an accredited program which includes certificate, associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degree programs.

**09-19**

*Public Health/Interprofessional*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the inclusion of and utilization of dental hygienists in response to local, state, national, and global crises.

**02-20**

*Public Health/Interprofessional*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates dental hygienists be included in local, state, and national crisis response policies.

**03-20**



*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for every dental hygienist to apply for and obtain a National Provider Identification (NPI) number. **04-20**

*Practice/Employment*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the federal government's Fair Labor Standards Act in which dental hygienists must, as employees, be issued a W2 by their permanent or temporary employers with appropriate government withholdings made from their wages, as appropriate to this statute. **05-20**

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports specialty certification program opportunities for registered dental hygienists. **06-20**

Professional Roles of the Dental Hygienist: The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Inc. recognizes the professional roles of the dental hygienist to include, but not limited to, educational, administrative, research, entrepreneurial, public health, and corporate positions, with advocacy being an integral component of all. **08-05/07-20**

Wellness: A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. **08-20**

*Public Health/ Interprofessional*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports interprofessional advocacy of public, social, ecological, socio economic, mental, and legal aspects and collaborates with colleagues outside of dentistry to create a collaborated treatment plan of action that uses interprofessional collaboration. **05-18/09-20**

Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy (OMT): Treatment of the orofacial musculature to improve muscle balance & tonicity, enable functional breathing & establish correct functional activities of the tongue, lips & mandible so that normal growth & development of the face and dentition may take place in a stable, homeostatic environment for patients of all ages. **12-20**

NPI number: The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Administrative Simplification Standard. The NPI is a unique identification number for covered health care providers. Covered health care providers and all health plans and health care clearinghouses must use the NPIs in the administrative and financial transactions adopted under HIPAA. The NPI is a 10-position, intelligence-free numeric identifier (10-digit number). This means that the numbers do not carry other information about healthcare providers, such as the state in which they live or their medical specialty. The NPI must be used in lieu of legacy provider identifiers in the HIPAA standards transactions. As outlined in the Federal Regulation, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), covered providers must also share their NPI with other providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and any entity that may need it for billing purposes. **14-20**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, supports expanded oral cancer and

oropharyngeal screening for all patients for earliest referral and diagnosis. **15-20**

*Education/Curriculum*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the development and implementation of flexibly and innovatively scheduled and technologically advanced educational delivery systems only when clinical, didactic and laboratory education is provided through an accredited dental hygiene program. **05-90/16-20**

**2021-2025**

*Membership/Diversity*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the inclusion, diversity, equity, and access; and recognizes they value it adds to our organization, our mission and the quality of our programs and services. **03-21**

*Practice/Community Health*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the dental hygienists' role in community outreach, care coordination and the addressing of social determinants of health. **04-21**

Social Determinants of Health: Conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. **05-21**

Diversity: The characteristics and backgrounds that make people unique. **06-21**

*Practice/Scope of Practice*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association acknowledges and supports registered dental hygienists who are educated in Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy (OMT). The dental hygienist educated in OMT may provide orofacial myofunctional assessments and treatment independently in a variety of practice settings and for patients of all ages. **13-20/07-21**

Oral Biofilm: A mixed community of supragingival, aerobic organisms and deeper layers of more complex and resistant subgingival anaerobic organisms that form a highly organized, three-dimensional communal arrangement of virulent microorganisms that adhere to surfaces where moisture and nutrients are available. **08-21**

*Practice/Credentials*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports maintaining a document on guidelines for displaying hygienist credentials. **11-21**

*Research/Guidelines for Controlled Substances*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the need for further research and the development of clinical guidelines for the management of patients, their caregivers and the dental team who are under the influence of controlled substances and recreational drugs. **02-22**

Cultural Humility: Incorporation of a lifelong commitment to self-evaluation and self-critique, to redress the power imbalances in the patient-provider dynamic and to develop mutually

beneficial and non-paternalistic clinical and advocacy partnerships with communities on behalf of individuals and defined populations. **03-22**

*Ethics/Cultural Humility*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for cultural humility. **04-22**

Oral Health Equity: Providing necessary resources and assistance to achieve successful health outcomes for all populations. **05-22**

*Practice/Access to Care*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for an oral health assessment and evaluation by a licensed dental professional with referral for appropriate oral health care for individuals entering or residing in long term care facilities or utilizing public health settings.

**06-22**

*Practice/ Patient Care Services*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association advocates for evidence-based disease-causing oral biofilm management strategies that reduce overall health risks for prevention and control of oral and systemic diseases.

**07-22**

**Bacterial Decontamination: A method or modality whereby pathogenic bacteria are targeted, disabled and/or destroyed at a microscopic level in order to reduce inflammation and promote healing.**

**02-23**

**Social Media: Digital-based platforms where users create, share, engage with and react to content and information or participate in social networking.**

**04-13/03-23**

*Public Health/Prevention*

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association supports the education, training and utilization of dental hygienists in the procedure of vaccine administration to advance the effort of protecting and preserving public health.

**04-23**